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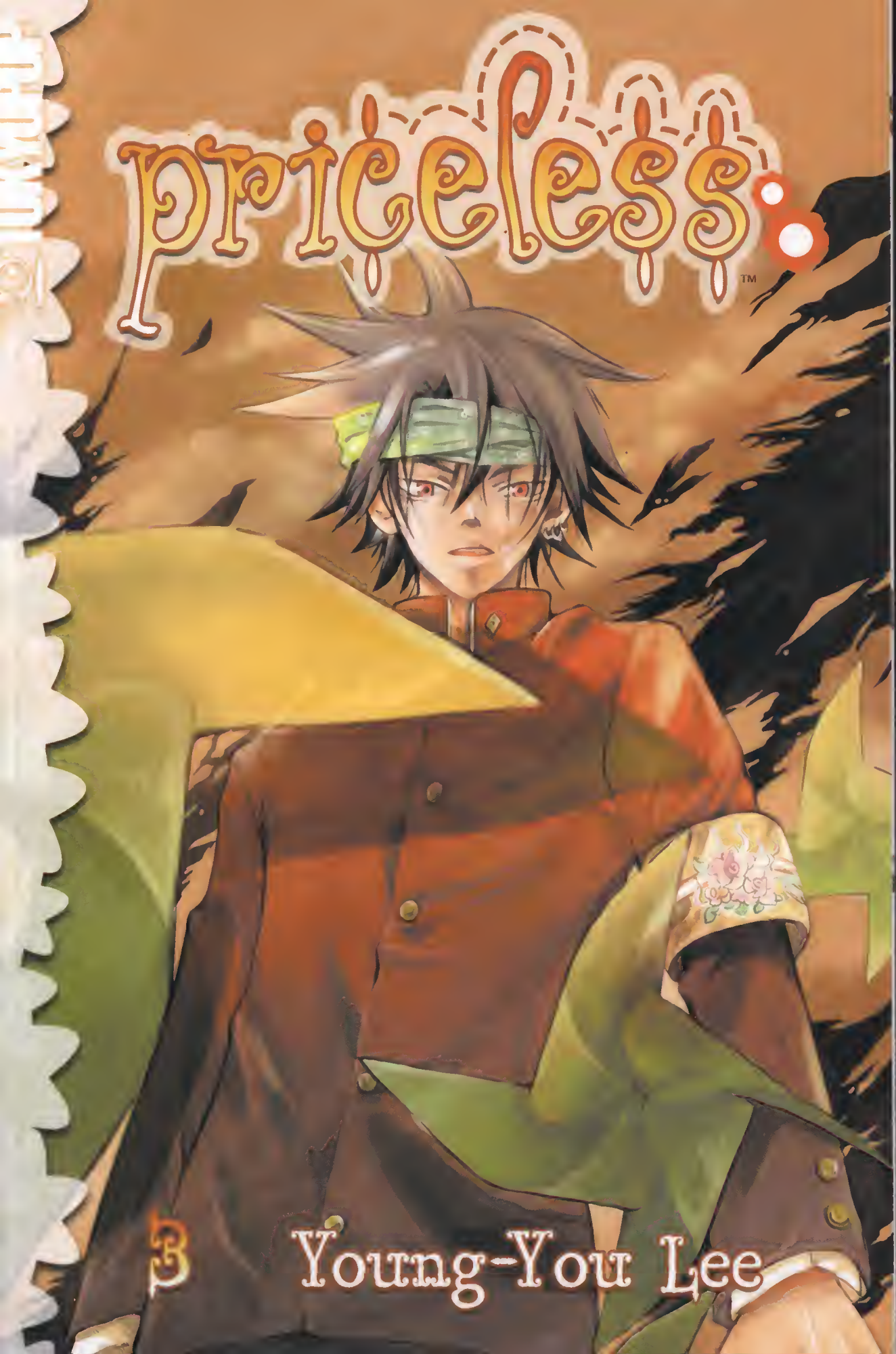
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Volume 3

Young-You Lee

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

SO FAR IN

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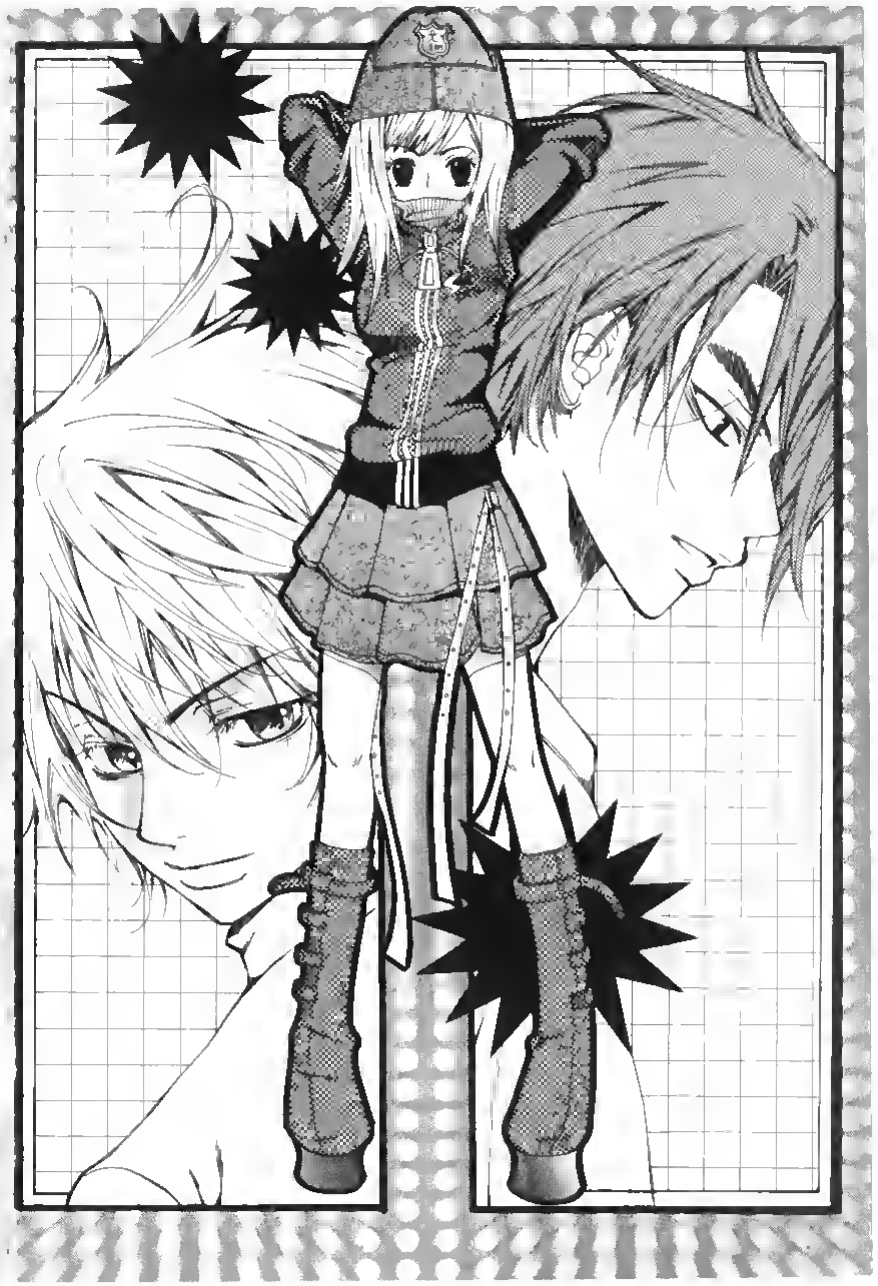
POOR LANG-BEE HAS TO WORK 24-7 TO PAY OFF DEBTS LEFT BY HER ABSENTEE MOM. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, A YOUNG CON ARTIST NAMED JIMMY HAS SHOWN UP CLAIMING TO BE HER STEPFATHER! IN AN ATTEMPT TO EASE HER FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, LANG-BEE HAS SET HER SIGHTS ON THE LOCAL RICH KID, DAN WON, AND IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING...DAN IS TOTALLY SMITTEN BY LANG-BEE! PROBLEM SOLVED, RIGHT? WRONG!

IT SEEMS LANG-BEE'S ARCHRIVAL, YUKA, WANTS DAN ALL TO HERSELF. PLUS, JIMMY IS TAKING THE WHOLE "DAD" THING A BIT TOO SERIOUSLY, GOING SO FAR AS TO ENROLL IN LANG-BEE'S SCHOOL TO KEEP CLOSER TABS ON HER!

WHAT'S A YOUNG GOLD DIGGER TO DO...?



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OH LOOK! HELLO, DAUGHTER. DID YOU COME TO PICK ME UP?
GIVE ME A MINUTE I'LL BE DONE TALKING TO MY FRIENDS IN AN ITTY-BITTY MINUTE
UH, THAT'S OKAY YOU CAN KEEP TALKING I HAVE TO GO TO MY AFTER-SCHOOL JOB ANYWAY
AH! BINGO
priceless
Part 16
STRANGE. HE DOESN'T LOOK HARASSED
JIMMY WILL TOSS A TANTRUM SALAD IF HE SEES ME TALK TO DAN. BUT

LANG-BEE YOO
NOW I'VE SEEN HER TWICE TODAY!
NOW THAT MR. JIMMY'S IN MY CLASS, I BET I'LL GET TO SEE HER ALL THE TIME!
JIMMY SAID HE'D TEACH ME HOW TO WIN HER HEART, TOO. I'M SUCH A LUCKY GUY!
IN YOUR DREAMS! THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR IS TO NOT GET RUN OVER BY A TRUCK ON THE WAY HOME. I'M GOING TO WORK.
HMM... IT SEEMS MY HARD-WORKING DAUGHTER HAS LEFT ME BEHIND
LET'S GO TOO, DAN. WHAT NUMBER BUS DO YOU RIDE?
OH, THE MAIDEN IS RADIANT!
DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP SOME STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES ON YOUR WAY HOME
TWO OF THEM, SO I CAN EAT ONE TOMORROW MORNING, TOO!
...BLOTTED OUT BY A DARK CLOUD?
I RIDE THE CAR THAT MY CHAUFFEUR PICKS ME UP IN
OH? DON'T YOU KNOW A YOUNG PERSON LIKE YOURSELF HAS MORE NEED OF CHARACTER-BUILDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION THAN A PRIVATE VEHICLE?
REAL MEN CARE ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING. REAL MEN TAKE THE BUS.
UH, I DO CARE, BUT...
YOU'RE LIKE A MOLAR FACTORY, JEEZ!
YOU'RE SO MEAN.
SCOOT SCOOT
?
THEN BUY ME SOME MILK. I LIKE MINE MOCHA-FLAVORED

BUT?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH BUS TO TAKE TO GET HOME
...
HOW ABOUT THIS? I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO RIDE THE BUS
LET'S START BY PURCHASING A PASS, SHALL WE?
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR! I WILL DO MY BEST!

WHAT'S THIS?
STRENGTH
IT'S WEIGHT TRAINING BOYS TODAY MAY BE TALL, BUT THEY'RE ALL WILLOWY LIKE ELVES. A MAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEAR THE WEIGHT OF TWO OR THREE SUCH BAGS EFFORTLESSLY
CARRY ONE ON EACH SHOULD AT ALL TIMES WHILE YOU'RE AT SCHOOL TO BUILD YOUR MUSCLES. AT ALL TIMES!
YE-
YES SIR!
LET'S SCOOT
DID YOU SEE THAT PRESIDENT WON...
HOLY COW!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD ARE YOU DOING, SIR?!

UH...
WHY ARE YOU HOLDING THAT BAG?!!
SIR, WHY ARE YOU HOLDING SOMEONE ELSE'S BAG?!!
OH, YOU MUST BE DAN'S BODYGUARD SOO-HYUN AHN, RIGHT?
AND YOU'RE THE BASTARD BRASH ENOUGH TO TREAT POOR SIR'S DAINTY SHOULDERS LIKE WALL HOOKS?!
AND IF I WAS?
...
NO, NO, SOO-HYUN!
MR. JIMMY IS A KIND HEART WHO IS HELPING ME BECOME THE KIND OF MAN WORTHY OF LANG-BEE!

EXCUSE ME?
IT'S WEIGHT TRAINING! DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, SILLY! TEE HEE!
WHAT THE...?!
THAT'S NOT WEIGHT TRAINING!! HE'S PLAYING YOU FOR A FOOL!
HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE, SIR?!
GO AHEAD! SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION TOO, SOO-HYUN!

PLAYING FOR A...
HOW STU--
STUPID?!
떠덩-
OOPS!
TO RECENT NEONATE OF THE WORLD DAN WON WORDS LIKE "STUPID" AND "FOOL" ARE PARTICULARLY PAINFUL

EVEN THE PERSON CLOSEST TO ME THINKS I'M STUPID
NO!! NO I DON'T, SIR!
WHO CARES WHAT THE BODYGUARD THINKS?
STARTING NOW I'LL POINT OUT ALL YOUR WEAKNESS SO YOU CAN KNOW WHERE TO IMPROVE NO CHARGE!
YES SIR.
STOP LYING TO HIM, BASTARD
SHALL WE GO?
SOO-HYUN, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT DRIVING ME TO SCHOOL ANYMORE

FROM NOW ON, I'M RIDING THE BUS WITH MR. JIMMY.

SIR...!!
YOU WANTED TO KNOW MY DAUGHTER'S FAVORITE CELEBRITIES, RIGHT?
BILL GATES! SHE LOVES THAT GUY! AND OTHER WEALTHY PEOPLE TOO, LIKE THE KING OF JORDAN AND...
WHY IS IT EVERY TIME I THINK OF JIMMY I FEEL QUEASY?

PART 16 - END

priceless
part 17

WISDOM, PHYSICAL STRENGTH, COURAGE, ENDURANCE, CONCENTRATION, INTELLECT, SUPER STRENGTH--ALL THESE QUALITIES ARE NECESSARY FOR ME TO BECOME WORTHY OF LANG-BEE.
I WILL GIVE MY ALL!
GET 'EM TIGER!

I'M HOME.

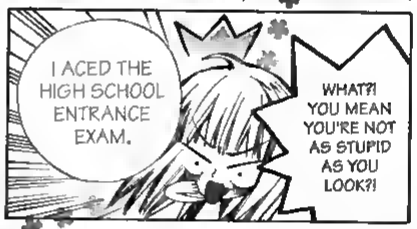
DID YOU BUY THE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES?
뒤굴
.....

YES.
STRAWBERRY JAM & PT COOKIES
IF YOU WERE GOING TO ENROLL IN MY SCHOOL, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME BEFOREHAND
HEY, C'MOOON! I WANT MY CAAAKE!
QUIET, YOU BABY! YOU REALLY FREAKED ME OUT TODAY YOU'RE LUCKY I GOT YOU ANYTHING!
GIVE A GIRL A WARNING SHOT!

SWEETIE DIDN'T LIKE DADDY'S SURPRISE?
REALLY, IT WAS ALL FOR YOU
KISS KISS
WHY WOULD A LAZYBONES LIKE YOU EVEN WANT TO GO ANY SCHOOL, LET ALONE MINE?

COME TO THINK OF IT. WHERE WAS YOUR OLD HIGH SCHOOL?

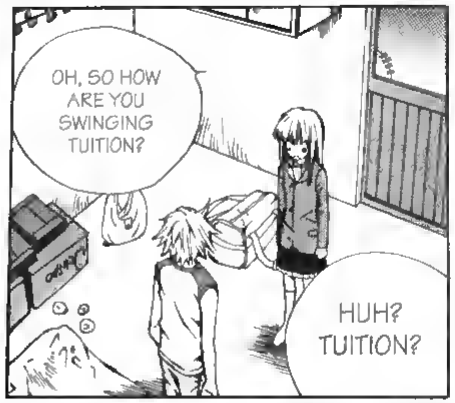
I ONLY GRADUATED FROM GRADE SCHOOL
WHAT? THEN HOW DID YOU GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL?


I ACED THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM.
WHAT?! YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT AS STUPID AS YOU LOOK?!

SO MAYBE YOU CAME BACK TO SCHOOL BECAUSE..
WELL...

MAYBE YOU COULD SAY THAT I KINDA MISSED SCHOOL.
ANYWAY, ISN'T THAT WHERE A KID MY AGE SHOULD BE?

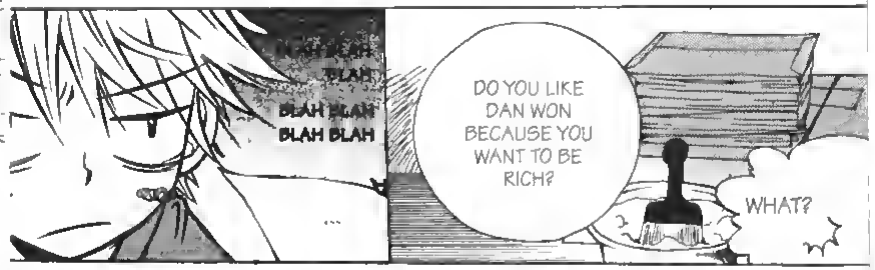
WOW!


OH, SO HOW ARE YOU SWINGING TUITION?
HUH? TUITION?

YEAH. THE SCHOOL BUS FEE SCHOOL SUPPLIES TEXTBOOKS- YOU KNOW
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PAY FOR IT?

I SQUISH YOU LIKE THE LEECH YOU ARE!

THEN I MUST G BACK IN TIME AN STOP TH PARENT
THE TERMINATOR
HEY, DUDE, LET'S LOOK AT THIS REALISTICALLY. I'M A HIGH SCHOOL KID AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BE A SUGAR MAMA LIKE MY MOM ALREADY? GET REAL. YOU THINK THE WORLD CHANGES BECAUSE YOU'RE PRETTY?
YEAH...
HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN A CON ARTIST?


BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH
...
DO YOU LIKE DAN WON BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE RICH?
WHAT?

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...?
캐

GET YOUR ACT STRAIGHT, OKAY? IT'S UNREALISTIC FOR YOU TO THINK YOU CAN GO TO SCHOOL RIGHT NOW WITHOUT A WAY TO SUPPORT YOURSELF
I CAN'T FATHOM WHAT MADE YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME AND BARGE IN HERE CALLING YOURSELF MY FATHER, BUT CAN'T YOU AT LEAST PAY FOR YOUR OWN FOOD? YOU KNOW THE SAYING "IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU DON'T EAT"
호
이

IT'S OBVIOUS!! YOU HAVE NO PRIDE WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY.
EVEN IF IT MEANS I HAVE TO **STARVE** TO DEATH, I'LL **NEVER** KISS SOMEONE'S ASS!

I SAID, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
WHO DOESN'T KNOW?! I HEARD HE THREW MONEY AT YOU AND YOU STILL LIKE HIM! ARE YOU STOOPED SO LOW LICKING HIS BOOTS IS MOVING UP IN THE WORLD?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! I LIKE HIM! I LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE'S RICH! WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW YOU PENNILESS SCHMUCK?
YOU'D BETRAY YOUR OWN BLOOD FOR A FEW PENNIES!
YOU WANNA TALK FAMILY?! IF YOU WERE AS RICH AS PRESIDENT WON, WOULD YOU TAKE CARE OF ME AND MY MOTHER?
YOU THINK I CAN'T?! YOU THINK I CAN'T MARRY INTO THE WON CONGLOMERATE, WHICH IS WORTH FAR MORE THAN YOUR PEBBLE BRAIN CAN COMPREHEND?!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE GONNA MARRY HIM NOW! WELL, MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH REAL ESTATE PRESIDENT WON HAS TO HIS NAME?!

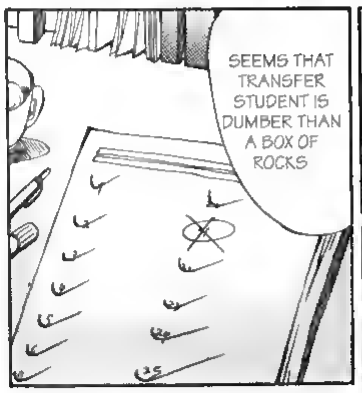
AH!
I'M SUCH A SAD DAD. POOR DESTITUTE DAD WILL PUT HIMSELF OUT OF EVERYONE'S MISERY
콸콸콸
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM NOW?
?
I COULD HAVE SWORN THOSE COOKIES WOULD KEEP ON HIS GOOD SIDE, BUT HE'S PRICKLY ALL OVER

NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, I'M GOING TO MAKE MONEY. ENOUGH SO THAT MY MOTHER CAN COME BACK.
AFTER SHE COMES BACK, IT WON'T MATTER WHAT ANYONE'S SAID OR WILL SAY.
STUPID DAUGHTER.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
I'M COLLECTING THE HOMEWORK IN FIFTEEN MINUTES
HURRY UP
WHICH ONE TASTES THE BEST?
THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIND OUT!

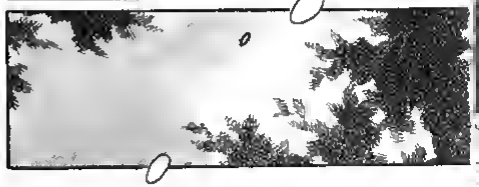
HOW UNFAIR TO HAVE TO PICK ONE!
AM I PICKING THE BEST DESSERT OR THE BEST GIRL?
YOU SAID YOU LIKE SWEETS, SO WE MADE THESE FOR YOU
WOW! GOLLY GEE, I COULD EAT YOUR CAKES 24 HOURS A DAY!
WHAT A DOUCHE..
YUCK
OH, DID YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK? MAD DOG THE BIOLOGY TEACHER WILL GO NUTS IF YOU FORGET
ONLY PRESIDENT WON CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING
UH, HOMEWORK?
HEY, DAN! WAKE UP.
UH YES SIR
WIPE OFF YOUR DROOL
IT'S TIME TO TRAIN YOUR MIND
THE SECOND STEP IN BECOMING A PERFECT MAN SHARPENING THE MIND

.....

IS THERE SOME SORT OF PROBLEM WITH OUR CLASS' HOMEWORK, MR YOO?
OH NOTHING THE CLASS AVERAGE JUST TOOK AN ASTRONOMICAL DIVE, THOUGH


SEEMS THAT TRANSFER STUDENT IS DUMBER THAN A BOX OF ROCKS

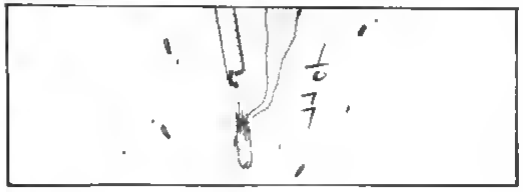
COULD WE MAYBE NOT SHARPEN THE MIND SO FAST? IT HURTS...
AGREED



THE THIRD STEP OF BECOMING A PERFECT MAN ...NING COURAGE

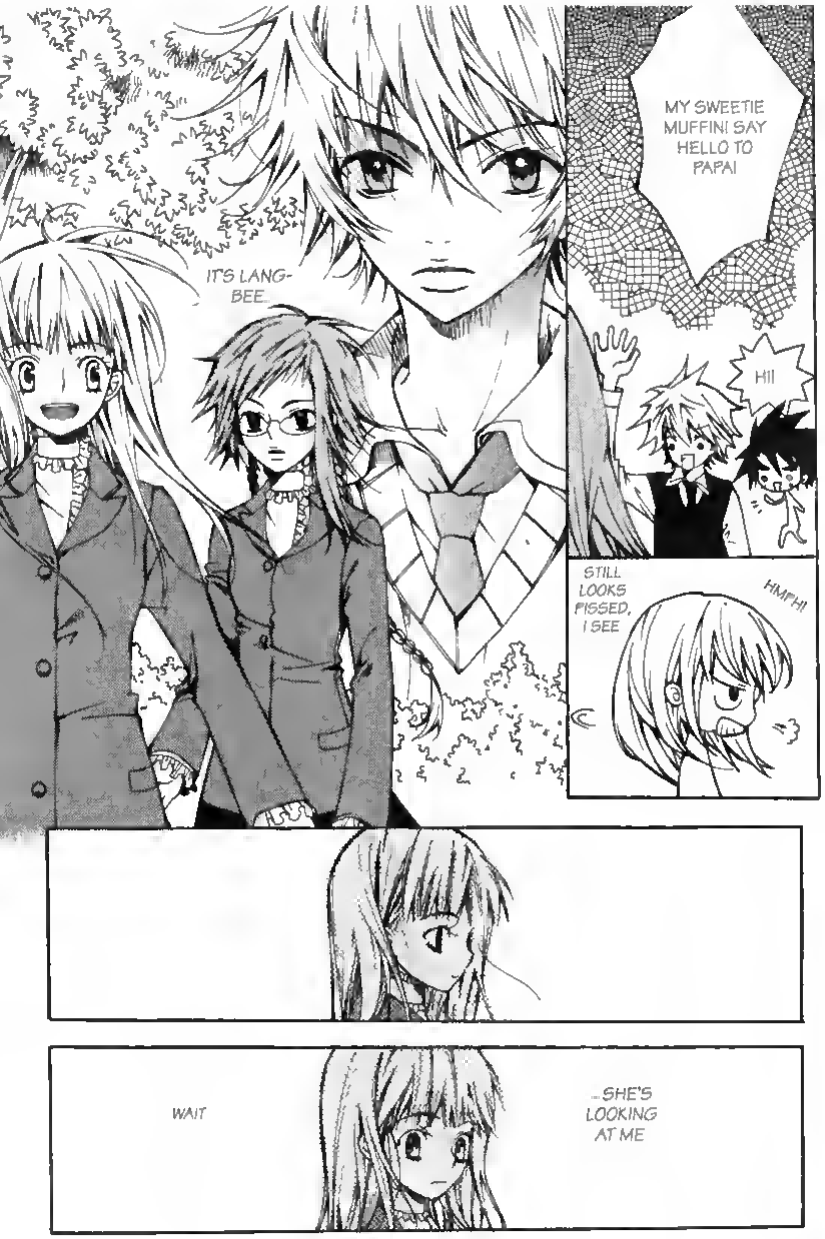
UH ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO SMOKE IN THIS HALLWAY JUST BECAUSE IT'S THE LEAST TRAVELED ONE?

SOO-HYUN TOLD ME THAT THE SCHOOL IS A NO SMOKING ZONE
THIS, MY SON, IS COURAGE AND IT'S PART OF YOUR TRAINING



HUH?
IS SOMEBODY BURNING LEAVES?
SIR! YOUR HAIR!!
YOUR HAIR'S ON FIRE!
OH SHIT! WHO DID THIS?!
IT'S THAT GREASY RICH KID!
YER BANKROLLS THICK ENOUGH TO PAD YOUR ASS FROM MY FOOT PRESIDENT?!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT MOVING!
BUT IT WASN'T ME!
YOU'RE DEAD!
WAS THAT CHILDISH OF ME?
SAVE ME, OH WISE ONE!
HANDS OFF. I TOLD YOU TO BE BRAVE!
AFTER TODAY, THOSE DELINQUENTS WILL SURELY HARASS YOU TO NO END, AND YOU WILL PROVE YOUR COURAGE BY FACING THEM
YES, SIR?!
REMEMBER, THIS IS TRAINING, SO NO OUTSIDE HELP ESPECIALLY NO BODYGUARDS!
U-UNDER-STOOD
RIGHTO! LET'S GO BUY OURSELVES A REFRESHING SOFT DRINK AT THE SCHOOL STORE!
OH?


IT'S LANG-BEE...
MY SWEETIE MUFFIN! SAY HELLO TO PAPA!
HI!
STILL LOOKS PISSED, I SEE
HMPH!
WAIT
...SHE'S LOOKING AT ME

WHY HELLO, PRESIDENT WON!

EVERYTHING GOING ALL RIGHT?
E-EVERYTHING'S ALWAYS ALL RIGHT!
OH WELL THEN, SEE YOU LATER
AHEM
AHEM
YOU'RE GOING ALREADY?!
HMM
SHE BRUSHED ME ASIDE
IS SHE REALLY THAT INTO HIM?
OR DOES SHE ADORE ALL PEOPLE WITH MONEY THAT WAY?
IF SOMETHING SERIOUS WERE TO HAPPEN TO THIS BOZO
HOW WOULD LANG BEE REACT?
BECAUSE I'M MAD ENOUGH TO CAUSE THAT SOMETHING SERIOUS...

WOW! I'M SO LUCKY!
JUST SEEING HER
...TURNS MY WHOLE DAY AROUND LIKE I'M DANCING IN THE SKY
I HAVE THE FEELING SOMETHING GREAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHOOPS
PART 17 - END

priceless.

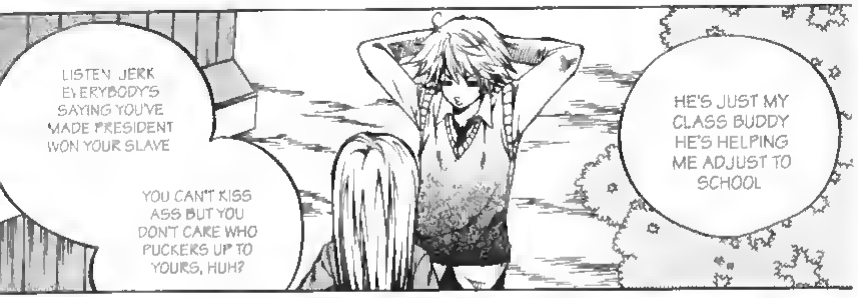
Part 18

priceless
Part 18

YOU DRAMATIC TYPES USUALLY HAVE SOME ANGSTY SCAR OR MISSING EYE OR UNSIGHTLY BAGS UNDER THEIR SUNGLASSES WELL, I GUESS YOU HAVE UNSIGHTLY BAGS...
YOU
WHOA, ARE YOU REALLY GONNA HIT ME?
YOU BASTARD...
HOW DARE YOU EVEN THINK...
..OF DOING THAT TO DAN!
MR. DEMON EYES NEEDS TO HEAR AN EXPLANATION FROM YOURS TRULY, DAN
"HOUCH! I TOLD YOU SOO HYUN MR. JIMMY IS JUST TRAIN
SHUT UP!!
..

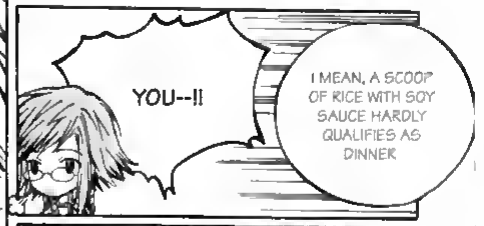
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?
IS IT A FIGHT?
NOT AGAIN!
HOW DID I KNOW IT'D BE YOU?! WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME FIRST, LANG-BEE?
THIS IS NOTHING TO WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OVER.
.....

I TOO MUST INSIST YOU GO HOME NOW, SIR
BUT..IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY
I INSIST!!! SIR!!
WELL, SHUCKS! THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!
GOODBYE, PRESIDENT WON


LISTEN, JERK. EVERYBODY'S SAYING YOU'VE MADE PRESIDENT WON YOUR SLAVE
YOU CAN'T KISS ASS BUT YOU DON'T CARE WHO PUCKERS UP TO YOURS, HUH?
HE'S JUST MY CLASS BUDDY. HE'S HELPING ME ADJUST TO SCHOOL

OH PLEASE!
DID YOU **SEE** ME MISTREAT HIM? HUH?
>3<
YOU'VE GOT ZERO PROOF, HON.

YOU'RE GONNA GET **ZERO** DINNER! **DADI**
PRESIDENT WON WILL BUY ME SOMETHING FAR TASTIER AND MORE EXPENSIVE THAN YOU POSSIBLY COULD


YOU--!!
I MEAN, A SCOOP OF RICE WITH SOY SAUCE HARDLY QUALIFIES AS DINNER

HE JUST GETS RUDER AND RUDER!
WHY?!
Lol

I WANT PRESIDENT WON TO THINK OF ME IN A POSITIVE LIGHT
BUT THIS CHOWDERHEAD IS PURPOSELY RAINING ON MY PARADE!

WAIT A SECOND, SOO-HYUN!
LET ME GO!
슥...
YOU...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO SCHOOL ANYMORE WHY DID YOU DISOBEY ME?
YOU CAN'T HELP ME ANYMORE ONLY JIMMY CAN
SIR.
WHY MUST GOD BE SO CRUEL? HE MADE YOU EXTRA CUTE AND EXTRA SENSITIVE, YET HE HAD TO SKIMP ON BRAINS...
DON'T CRY, SOO-HYUN. DON'T CRY.
SIR THEYVE CALLED YOU PRESIDENT THE GREASY HAIRED KID, MASCARA BOY, LOSER AND NOW YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'LL CALL YOU? WATERBOY
OKAY LISTEN
WAH!
SNIFF!

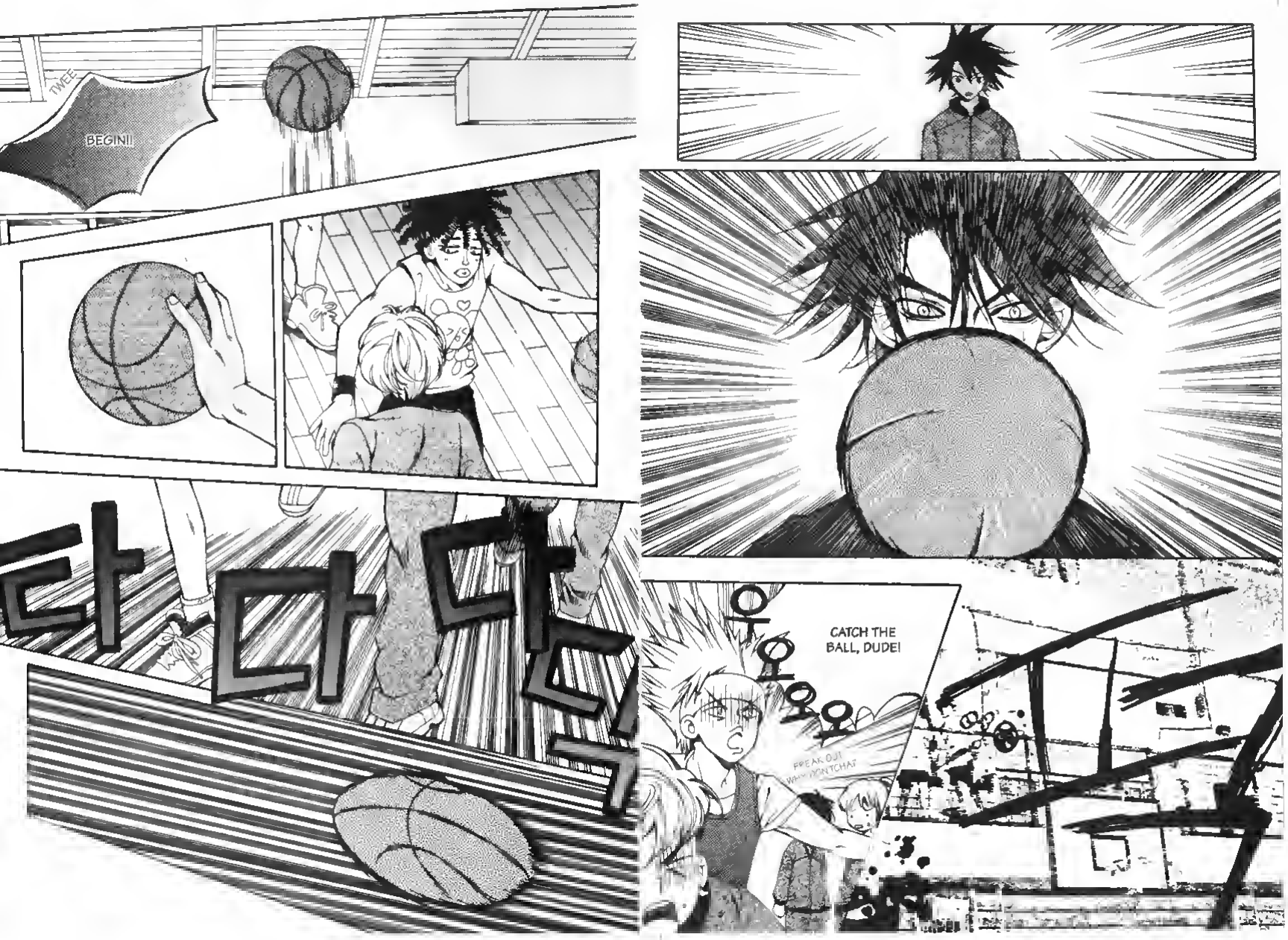
YES, I'M JIMMY'S SERVANT BUT HE'S ALSO THE FIRST PERSON TO REALLY TALK TO ME AT SCHOOL.
AND BECAUSE HE DOES, SLOWLY, OTHER PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO WARM UP TO ME.
FOR INSTANCE, I DO HIS HOMEWORK SO THAT HE WON'T GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE TEACHERS
AND WHEN HE FORGETS HIS TEXTBOOKS, I ASK TO BORROW THE OTHER KIDS' AND IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO TALK TO THEM

I FEEL LIKE DOORS ARE OPENING BEFORE ME

SO, FOR NOW, WILL YOU LET JIMMY BE?
I STILL NEED YOUR HELP TOO, OKAY?
...
MY
POOR
SIR...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING AGAIN?!

THEY SWITCHED HISTORY AND GYM ON US
OF ALL THE CLASSES WHY DOES FOURTH PERIOD HAVE TO BE GYM? IT'S RIGHT BEFORE LUNCH AND I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO ENERGY FOR ANYTHING!
YOU TELL IT, SISTER
ISN'T THAT WHEN CLASS EIGHT NORMALLY HAS GYM?
TEE HEE! LANG-BEE, I GET TO SEE YOU
THIS GUY IS UNBELIEVABLE
HOW ABOUT THIS TIME YOU GET OFF THE BENCHES AND TRY PLAYING FOR ONCE?
ALL RIGHT, CLASS!

YES, GYM TEACHER?
WE'RE PLAYING BASKETBALL TODAY
BOYS IN GROUP A GIRLS IN GROUP B
웅성 웅성
1.
2.
WOW! SHE REALLY CAN WEAR THAT UNIFORM!
♡
OH MY GOSH LEG?!
FOCUS DAN
UH! UM! OH!
깐작!
NOWHERE TO REST HIS EYES
TEAM SEVEN, GATHER AROUND!!
TWEE
AND
IDENT
JIMMY'S PLAYING?
REALLY?
I THOUGHT
E WASN'T
LOWED TO
RISK E TINC
A BOO BOO


TWEE
BEGIN!!
CATCH THE BALL, DUDE!

UNH...
YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT, BRO?
DUDE, HOW DID YOU MISS THAT PASS?
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND JUST WATCH FROM THE STANDS LIKE ALWAYS 'KAY?
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT I'D LIKE TO PLAY
THE SCORE IS NOW FOUR TO ZERO!

PART 18 - END

priceless

Part 19

IT DOESN'T SCORE SITTING IN YOUR HAND, DOOFUS!
HE'S RIGHT.
TO SCORE A POINT, YOU HAVE TO SHOOT THE BALL INTO THE NET.
I WILL SCORE BY SHOOTING THIS BALL INTO THAT NET!

HA HA HA! YOU GUYS SUCK!
ARE HIS GOLD BARS WEIGHING HIM DOWN?
LAUGH IT UP, HYENAS! YOU'LL SCATTER WHEN THE LION ROARS!
EEEEK!

EEEEK!
GO JIMMY!
JIMMY IS SO POPULAR AND SMART
I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD BE MORE PERFECT

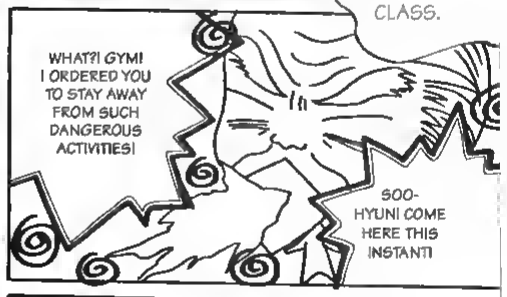
HE BROKE PAST THREE GUYS!
HE'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE AMERICAN BASKETBALL STARS!
HE'S GENTLE AND HANDSOME, YET REALLY GOOD AT SPORTS
PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE HE DWELLS IN THE EVERLASTING SUNLIGHT THAT IS LANG-BEE

HE ACED THE SHOT I MISSED.
HE SMILES THE EASY SMILE I CAN'T TEASE FROM MY LIPS.

RIGHT NOW...
...I'M SO JEALOUS OF JIMMY.

SAKES ALIVE! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU FACE, DAN?

WHO DID THIS? WHO WHOMPED MY GRANDSON UPSIDE THE HEAD?!
IT'S OKAY, GRANDMA. I JUST GOT HURT IN GYM CLASS.


WHAT?! GYM! I ORDERED YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM SUCH DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES!
SOO-HYUN! COME HERE THIS INSTANT!

YOU CALLED?
IT'S NOT HIS FAULT, GRANDMA!
WHAT KIND OF BODYGUARD ARE YOU?! WHAT SHENANIGANS WHERE YOU UP TO WHILE DAN WAS OFF GETTING HIMSELF HURT?!

AND I'M STILL THIRTY THREE!
MOTHER, BE REASONABLE.
철썩철썩
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR BABYING HIM SO UNGODLY MUCH.
WHAT'S THAT, SONNY?
퍽퍽
YOU WORTHLESS LOUT! WHAT DO YOU KNOW?! YOU'RE NEVER HERE!
MOM, THAT'S ENOUGH!
퍽
THE POOR BABY NEVER GOT TO SUCKLE AT HIS MOTHER'S TEAT, YET YOU TREAT HIM LIKE HE DOESN'T NEED AFFECTION!
퍽
SERIOUSLY, MOM, THAT HURTS

탁
SIR...
SOB
IT'S MY FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO YOU! NOW YOUR HANDSOME FACE IS RUINED AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
...
I'M SO SORRY! I CALLED DR. AHN, SO JUST STAY STRONG!
I'M FINE
...

SOO-HYUN, I'M A BAD PERSON.
WHAT?
JIMMY HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL TO ME...
...BUT I HAD THE GALL TO BE JEALOUS OF HIM
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A MOMENT, I WAS JEALOUS OF HOW LANG-BEE SMILED AT JIMMY.
WELL, AND OF THE SHOT HE MADE.
BASKETBALL?! THAT'S ALL?! SIR, ANYONE WITH SOME HEIGHT CAN PLAY!
YOU WERE BORN TO PLAY! YOU'RE A HEAD ABOVE THE REST!
I'LL FIND THE BEST COACH OUT THERE IMMEDIATELY!
Y YOU THINK SO?
IF I WAS GOOD..

..WOULD LANG-BEE ADMIRE ME AND BATHE ME WITH SMILES?
WASN'T I SO AWESOME TODAY?
IF I WAS GOOD LIKE JIMMY...

UH WHEN DID YOU PICK UP BASKETBALL? YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD
BASKETBALL SOCCER, TENNIS I'M THE BOMB AT EVERY THING! EVEN GIRL CATCH N
SADLY, I KNOW IT'S ALL TRUE
I GUESS I SAW AN ENTIRELY NEW SIDE TO HIM AT SCHOOL TODAY
구물
YAHOO!
LOOK AT THE SWEETS MY ADMIRERS BROUGHT ME TODAY!
THEN AGAIN, WHAT'S THAT PHRASE? "THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME"?

WANT SOME?
우걱우걱
I DON'T LIKE SWEET THINGS!
...NEITHER DID NA-YOUNG.
OH, SHE DOES SHE JUST TRIES TO STAY THIN. CHUBBY PEOPLE DON'T MAKE CONVINCING SALESPEOPLE FOR DIET PILLS
BUT THIS ONE TIME, SHE ATE MY ENTIRE BIRTHDAY CAKE AND FARTED AND BELCHED FOR HOURS
REALLY?
YOU GUYS LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE SOMETIMES THAT I FORGET YOU'RE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE
PLEASE! WE'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT, ONLY YOUR CRAZY BRAIN WOULD THINK WE'RE SIMILAR

KNOCK-KNOCK?
EXCUSE ME?
MISS, ARE YOU HOME?
NO FAIR
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
THE NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDS OUR OWN STREETLAMPS, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T PAID THIS MONTH
MONEY'S BEEN REALLY TIGHT I SWEAR I'LL GET IT TO YOU AS SOON AS I CAN
DUE TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE
BY THE WAY, IS YOUR "STEPFATHER" STILL AROUND?
NOW I'M NOT ONE TO GOSSIP, BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING HE'S NOT REALLY YOUR STEPFATHER, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT AND THOSE PEOPLE DON'T WANT TRAMPS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BRINGING DOWN THE PROPERTY VALUE SO DON'T GIVE THEM ANY FODDER YOU HEAR?

THAT'S SO NOT IT
JUST PAY UP SOON!
IS SHE GONE? ARE YOU COMING IN?
WHY DID THAT NEVER CROSS MY MIND?
I WAS SCARED THAT SHE MIGHT ASK FOR COOKIES, SO I HID MINE UNDER THE BLANKET
...
OF COURSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO THINK THAT
GOD, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ACT SO RETARDED?!
THAT'S DOMESTIC ABUSE! YOU BETTER BUY ME COOKIES TO MAKE UP!
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A HOLE IN YOUR HEAD DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO STUFF IT!
EVEN IF HE ACTS LIKE A CHILD, HE'S A FULL-GROWN MAN

A MAN!?
I WANNA DOLLAR TO BUY MORE COOKIE SNACKIES!
POW
POW
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME! IT'S TOO EARLY FOR SLEEPYTIME!
GRAR!
I'M GOING TO BED! I HAVE A CLASSROOM DUTIES MEETING REALLY EARLY TOMORROW!
GREAT BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT LADY SAID NOW I'M CONSCIOUS OF EVERY LITTLE THING
THIS ISN'T THE ARMY! YOU'RE NOT MY SERGEANT! YOU'RE NOT MY MOM! I HAVE RIGHTS!
WHAT AM I CONSCIOUS OF AGAIN?
AWAKEN TO REALITY...
OHM OHM OHM
ALTHOUGH, I HAVE TO ADMIT...
..HE WAS PRETTY AMAZING IN GYM TODAY
SCOOT SCOOT CRINKLE STUFF STUFF
.....
I KNEW IT ! YOU'RE SNEAKING FOOD AGAIN!

통
통통통
AGAIN WITH THE BALL?
OOPS!
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO PROVE?
OH, HI THERE, SPORT
UM, MR. JIMMY?

COULD I PLEASE, MAYBE, STOP TRAINING FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME AWESOME ANYMORE?
SPECIFIC?
UM... ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT IF I...
IT'S NOT THAT IT'S JUST I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE SPECIFIC I PLAN TO WORK ON
HE'S ONLY ASKING FOR A BRIEF RESPITE OF THREE TO FOUR DAYS!
RIGHT, SIR?
YEAH...
.....
WELL, DAN, IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...

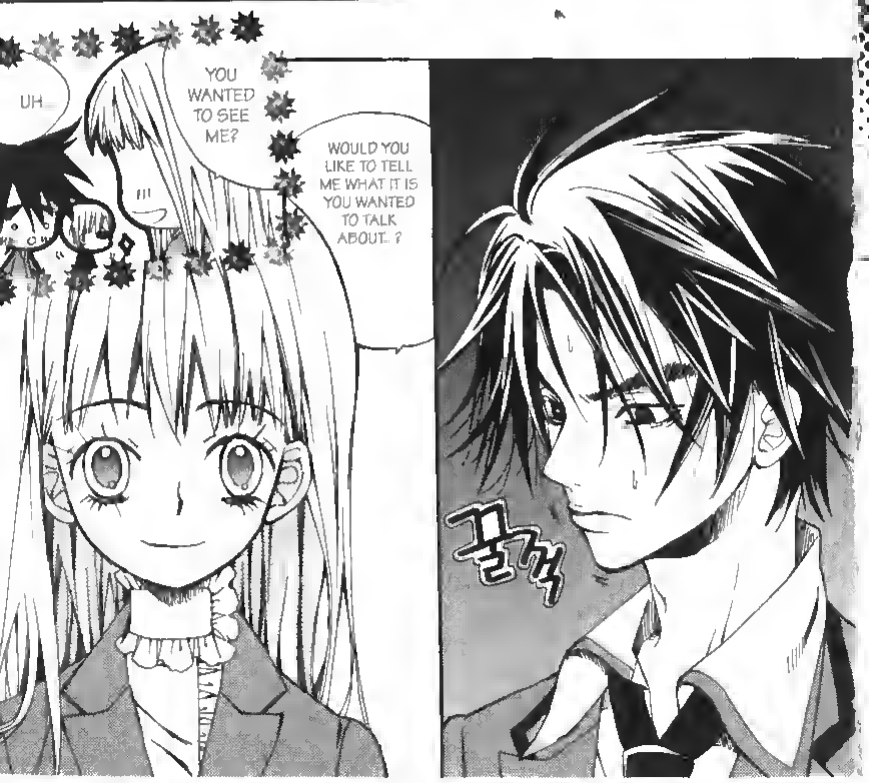
I WILL SHOW YOU A SIDE TO ME THAT EVEN I'VE NEVER SEEN
AND THEN..
I'LL CONFESS MY FEELINGS TO YOU
LITTLE BY LITTLE, I'M CHANGING
EVEN IF I CAN NEVER BE A PERFECT GUY IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD...
...I CAN BECOME PERFECT IN YOUR EYES

IT'S ALL CLEAR, SIR!
I HAVE SECURED LANG-BEE'S LOCATION, SIR
THOSE ARE BIG WORDS!
JUST PERFORMING IN MY FULL CAPACITY AS YOUR ASSISTANT SIR
.....
?

PART 19 - END

priceless.
Part 20

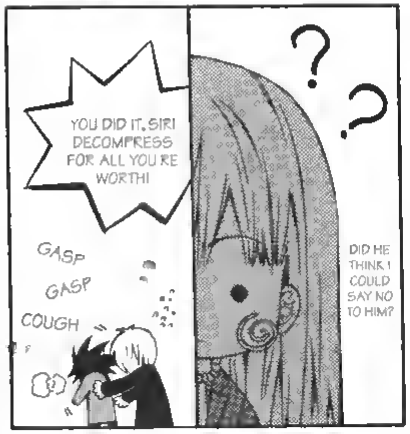
PRESIDENT WON!


UH...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT..?
끌꺽

ON THURSDAY AT FIVE PM..
..ON THE BASKETBALL COURT IN THE GYM...

BE THERE!!

SOO-HYUN, LET'S GO


YOU DID IT, SIR! DECOMPRESS FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH!
GASP
GASP
COUGH
??
DID HE THINK I COULD SAY NO TO HIM?

THURSDAY AT FIVE? IT'S A DATE
AND WHAT WOULD A DATE BE WITHOUT A CHAPERONE?

YO, DAN, MY MAN!
YOU READY TO LIE YO MANHOOD ON THE MEASURING STICK? THIS IS THE DAY YOU BEEN YAPPIN 'BOUT RIGHT?
IT SURE IS, COACH!!
oh~!!
THAT'S MY LITTLE BOY! GO KIPI GO YOU FREAKY LITTLE KOREAN RICH BOY!
CRACKLE
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MR O'NEAL

THE DA[illegible] ARRIVED FOR ME TO EXPRESS THE LONGING FELT DEEP WITHIN MY SOUL
OH, MR. O' NEAL I'M BEYOND WORDS...
BEFORE ME THE DOOR THAT SYMBOLIC THRESHOLD DIVIDING THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN
YEAH, THAT'S ME. GREAT COACH O'NEAL
AND BEYOND IT A GYMNASIUM THAT HOLDS IN ITS CURVED STADIUM SEATING THE FATE OF ME AND LANG-BEE
I WAS TIMID AT FIRST, BUT HIS GENTLE HAND SHOWED ME THE WAY
THIS WAS THE PLACE THEIR STORY BEGAN. FUTURE POETS WILL SAY
와아아
와아아
와아아
와...

OH MY GOSH! HE REALLY SHOWED UP!!
HOT DANG! ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE THIS SHOW HE SAID HE'D BRING US!
AT LEAST WE DIDN'T STAY LATE FOR NOTHING!
S-SIR?
HE'S... HE'S FROZEN!
HE'S ALMOST COLD TO THE TOUCH! LEAVE IT TO DAN TO GET NOT JUST METAPHORICALLY BUT LITERALLY FROZEN!

ON WITH THE BLOOD AND GUTS!
WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP?
YEAH IF IT'S SOMETHING LAME, WE GET TO GIVE YOU SWIRLIES FOR A MONTH!
AND IT BETTER NOT BE SOMETHING STUPID!
UH... PLEASE QUIET DOWN! BE SEATED!
IN A SPECIAL LIMITED ENGAGEMENT TOUR, DAN WON WILL DEMONSTRATE THE SKILLS HE'S ACQUIRED IN THE LAST FOUR DAYS OF INTENSE BASKETBALL TRAINING UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF THE ESTEEMED MR. O' NEAL!
A SOLO EXHIBITION, IF YOU WILL! "DAN WON: GLOBETROTTER! BASKETBALL SOLITAIRE EXTRAVAGANZA!" A HEART-RACING CHALLENGE OF ONE ON ZERO!!
BOO! SHITTY!
THAT'S SWIRLY TALK, MAN!
I'M OUTTA HERE! WHAT A MORON! WAS HE SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT GYM CLASS
THAT HE NEEDED TO BOLSTER HIS IMAGE WITH THIS ONE-SPARKLER FIREWORKS SHOW?
LIKE HE EVEN HAD AN IMAGE TO BEGIN WITH
우르르ㅡ
THANK GOODNESS!
WHEW
DON'T LEAVE!!
DON'T YOU REALIZE DAN'S DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOU?
HE'S DOING ALL HE CAN TO REDEEM HIMSELF AND BECOME WORTHY OF YOU GIVING HIM THE TIME OF DAY!
PLEASE...
OPEN YOUR HEARTS
AND AFTER THIS IS OVER, HE'S PLANNED A PARTY FOR US AT PASHA NIGHTCLUB!
WOW!

AND NOW, DAN WON WILL... SHOOT A BASKET!
통통

HE LOOKS LESS LIKE A BUTTERFINGERED TORTOISE AND MORE LIKE A KID WHO AT LEAST HAS WATCHED BASKETBALL ONCE ON TV
HE REALLY MUST HAVE PRACTICED A LOT

탁
OH NO!

통통통

PWA HA HA HA HA
FOUL

STRANGE...

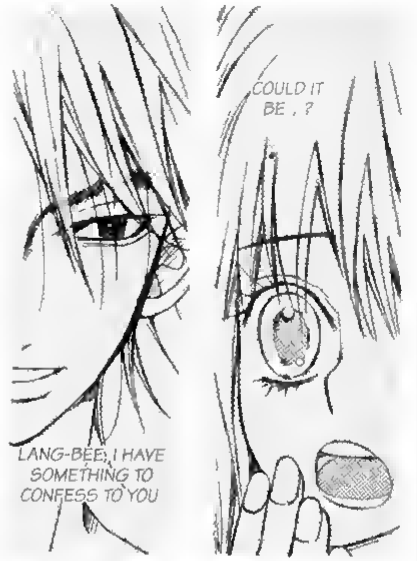
I CAN'T BELIEVE DAN WON, WHO RUN FROM A FLY IS COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO WILLINGLY DISPLAY HIS INEPTITUDE IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL, KNOWING THAT IF HE FLUBS HE'LL BE TAUNTED MERCILESSLY
HIS FIRST SHOT!

JEEZ!
HE FLUBBED THAT.
HE'S GOT THE ATHLETIC ABILITY OF A SPOON
IT'S JUST SAD
-!!
IS THIS SOMEHOW FOR LANG-BEE?
YOU CAN DO IT!
WHAT AN ANGEL~

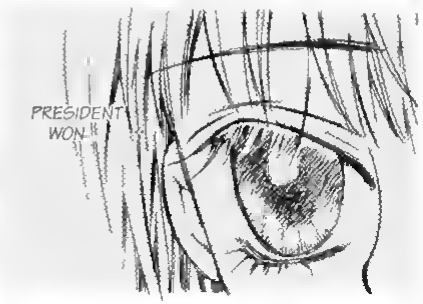
SECOND SHOT!
THIRD SHOT!
FOURTH SHOT!
FIFTH SHOT!
WOW! THERE'S JUST NOTHING LIKE HIS ROUSE UP-THE CROWD-AND-DELIBERATELY-MISS TECHNIQUE! GIVE HIM A HAND!
SHOULDN'T AT LEAST ONE OF THEM GONE IN BY LUCK?
YES, FOLKS! IT'S THAT TWIST OF THE WRIST THAT KEEPS THE BALL SPINNING AWAY FROM THE NET! WHAT PRECISION!
THE MAN BORN TO PLAY BASKETBALL DAN WON!!
THIS IS TOO EMBARRASSING TO WATCH WHY DOESN'T HE GIVE UP?
YEAH, THIS IS PATHETIC
SIR, LET'S LEAVE BEFORE YOU'VE LOST ALL YOUR ... WELL, LET'S JUST MAKE OUR EXIT, SIR
HE'S RIGHT THIS IS ENOUGH
GASP
YOU CAN DO IT, PRESIDENT WON!!

DON'T THROW IN YOUR CHIPS JUST YET, PRESIDENT WON!
LANG BEE
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!!
와아
와아아아
와아아-

THAT SHOT WAS WORTH WAITING FOR! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T GIVE UP!


COULD IT BE , ?
LANG-BEE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO CONFESS TO YOU

I LIKE YOU
I'VE LIKED YOU EVER SINCE I MET YOU


PRESIDENT WON

I DO E.O.
HEY YOUS! WE'S MAFIA WHO LIKES TAH KIDNAP NEW BRIDES!
YAH BRIDE
POW!
KABLAM!
FOR UPHOLDING THE MORAL FIBER AND JUSTICE OF OUR COUNTRY WE AWARD DAN WON A MEDAL OF PRESIDENTIAL HONOR
...

SIR
ONE MORE TIME.
LANG-BEE IS WATCHING I CAN'T BE ANYTHING LESS THAN THE MAN SHE DESERVES
EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE
I WANT TO BE THE CAUSE OF HER HAPPINESS
NIFF
F

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! PLEASE DIRECT YOUR EYES ONCE AGAIN TO THE ARENA FOR..
...DAN WON'S LAST SHOT!
EXIT
YOU MEAN IT'S NOT OVER?
PRESIDENT WON TAKES A LICKIN' AND KEEPS ON KICKIN'
HE'S TRYING SO HARD, BUT IT JUST
YEAH, IT JUST

I SURE HOPE HE GETS IT IN THIS TIME

BE NAH EE DAH BE NAH EE DAH
R LORD WH ART IN HEAVEN HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Part 20 - End

HERE IT COMES!!
priceless
Part 20

priceless
Part 21

EEEK!
IS THAT THE FIRE ALARM?!
WEEE-OO
YES!! WHERE THERE'S BLEEDING EARDRUMS THERE'S FIRE!
MOVE!!
HEY, QUIT SHOVING!!
SIR, RUN FOR IT!
WEE-OO
YOU THOUGHT I WAS JUST GONNA SIT AROUND AND LET SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO LANG-BEE?
HMPH

I'M SERIOUS, SIR!
NO! I HAVE TO FIND LANG-BEE!
LANG-BEE!!!
PRESIDENT WON
I'LL SAVE YOU!!!
WHAT?

WHY AREN'T YOU RUNNING AWAY, HONEY?
ONLY IDIOTS PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM'S WAY
BUT..I
!
I SAID, LET'S GO!
I'M TOTALLY WITH HIM ON THIS ONE
BUT...
WAIT!! LANG-BEE!!!

WHY DO YOU KEEP CHASING AFTER MY DAUGHTER?

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT HER FATHER'S SAFETY, SINCE I'LL BE HANDLING IT PERSONALLY.
SIR PLEASE GO AHEAD AND FIND LANG-BEE
따르릉
탁탁탁
GREAT, WHERE'D JIMMY GO?
YOU KNOW THIS WHOLE ALARM'S PRETTY FISHY
따르릉
YOU THINK SO?
I DON'T SEE ANY FLAMES OR ANY SMOKE, SO YEAH
따르릉

YOU THINK SOMEONE PULLED A PRANK?
LANG-BEE!!
HUH...?
W-WAIT!
NNGH!
헉헉
PRESIDENT WON!!
우르르
ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T MIND ME JUST SAVE YOURSELF RUN, LANG-BEE
WHAT?
BUT YOU ASKED ME TO WAIT
DON'T WORRY I'M PRETTY SURE THE WHOLE ALARM'S JUST A PRANK

A PRANK...? BUT WHO...
YOU LOOK PRETTY WRETCHED I MEAN, PALE
I'M FINE!
I HAD SO MUCH COURAGE BUILT UP...
I WANTED TO PROVE TO YOU...
...THAT I COULD MAKE YOU HAPPY.

ME?
W-WHY? IS IT BECAUSE...

화
HEY!!
CONGRATULATIONS YOU GOT YOUR WISH
IT WAS SO FAST IT'S LIKE IT DIDN'T HAPPEN
HUH! AFTER HIM!
SURE
I HEARD HIM RIGHT, DIDN'T I?

I MEAN, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO PRESIDENT WON BUT
"YOU LIKE MONEY, YA SHIT"
"LEAVE ME ALONE!!"
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SAID SUCH CRUEL THINGS TO ME TO SAY HE LIKES ME...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW
WHAT DOES HE SEE IN ME?
WHAT DOES HE LIKE ABOUT ME?

I LIKE YOU.
I'VE LIKED YOU EVER SINCE I MET YOU.

WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

WHICH ONE OF YOU BRATS PULLED ME OFF MY BREAK FOR THIS PRANK?
IT WAS A PRANK?
THAT'S RIGHT, SHORTY! A PRANK! IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?!
HMPH.

WAKEY WAKEY, DAD!
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL TODAY!
HA HA! REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE FUN OF ME AND PRESIDENT WON?
SILENCE
WELL HE

FINE! I GUESS I'LL RUB IT IN YOUR FACE WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU BIG SLUG!
OH MY GOSH! STARTING TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO ASK HIM TO BUY ME LUNCH!
GOODBYE.
I'M LEAVING
YOU'RE SO YOUNG
THAT'S WHY
YOUR HAIR

YOUR LONG, FINE STRANDS OF HAIR...
...SPARKLE...
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE WHAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR?

WON'T YOU WAIT FOR ME? UNTIL THE DAY WHEN I CAN ENCIRCLE YOU IN MY ARMS AND PROTECT AND NURTURE YOU? UNTIL THEN...
...I'LL BE WAITING HERE FOR YOU.

PART 21 - END

SHORT STORY

THE DEVIL'S WISH

UNDERNEATH THE SEVENTH MOON, PAST FOUR FROZEN LAKES THE DEVIL'S BLUE CASTLE RISES LIKE AN ICY MAUSOLEUM
IT IS IN FACT THE INTERMENT PLACE OF THE SPRING GODDESS KERIKAY
I AM THE KING OF A REALM OF EARTHLY RICHES, LIRAFORUM TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY KINGDOM WAS RAVISHED AND OVERRUN BY TILTERACHE, THE DEVIL

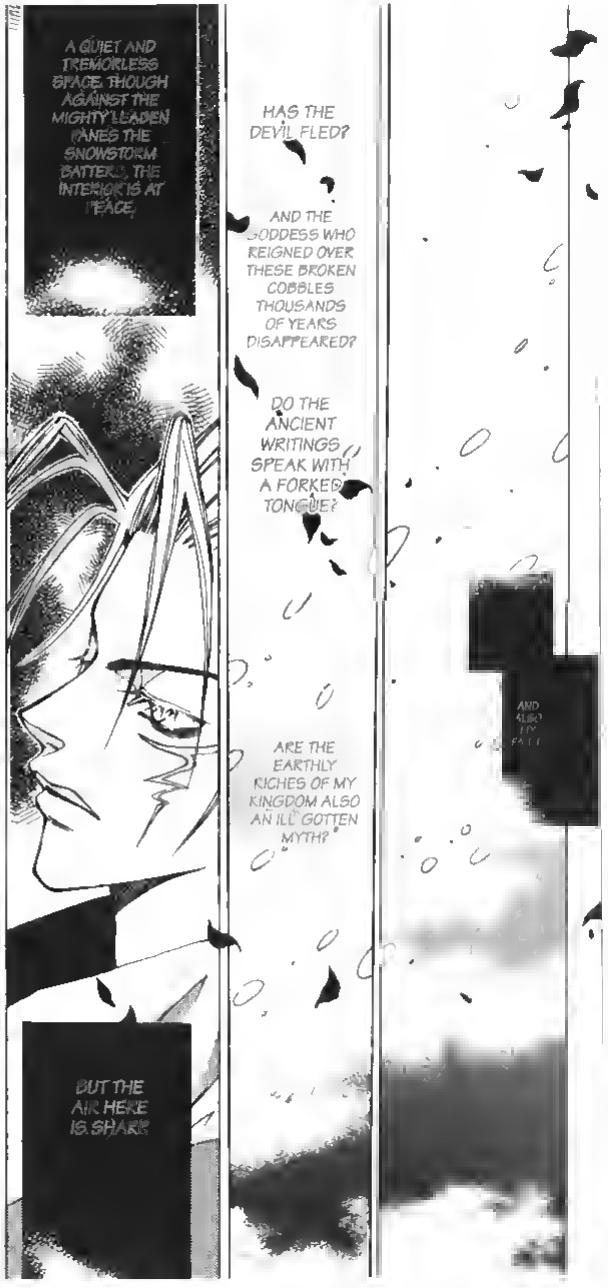
IN TWO DAYS, MY COMRADES—TEN FAITHFUL SOLDIERS AND MY DEAR BLOOD BROTHER AND CLOSE-T FRIEND HAVE BEEN DOWN IN PERMAN
I, WHO LEFT MY ROYAL KIN WHO EMBARKED ON THE SEEMING FOOL'S ERRAND TO SLAY THE HORRID DEVIL I, WHO SHED THE BLOOD OF A HUNDRED OF ROYAL DESCENT WHO ENTREATED ME TO FORGO MY QUEST
I, WHO NOW IS PRICKED BY SILVER WINDS AND SILVER SIGHS, THE NEEDLESTOF A TWO-HUNDRED-YEAR SNOWSTORM THAT GRIEVES ON, TRAVEL WITH THE DIM HOPE OF FINDING SPRING TO BRING BACK TO MY KINGDOM.

WHO'S THERE?
....
MAN?
A
YES! YOU SURE ARE!
헤...
?!
AMONG MEN I AM A KING!
I DEMAND TO KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE DEVIL TILTERACHE AND THE GODDESS KERIKAY!!

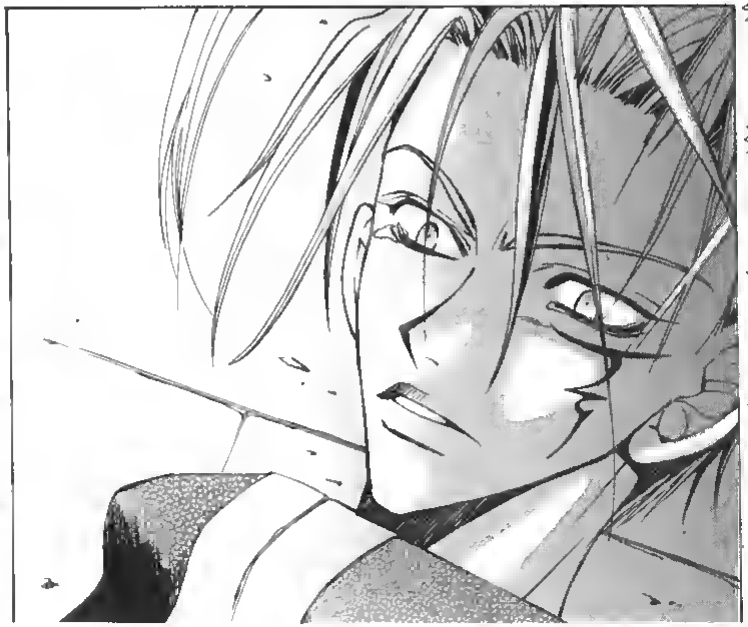
ANSWER ME!
WHY ELSE WOULD THE LAND BE NUMBED WITH ICE AND SNOW, COLD AND BARREN AS A CORPSE?
THE HONEST PEOPLE OF MY LAND WHO HAVE NOT DIED HAVE FLED WE NUMBER HALF OF WHAT WE DID AND THOSE SOLDIERS UNFORTUNATE TO HAVE TRACKED THE BANE HAVE NEVER RETURNED
SPEAK YOUR NAME? HOW CAN A DEVIL'S FORTRESS ECHO WITH NOTHING BUT THE SOUND OF FALLING SNOW?
ARE YOU THE ONLY LIVING BEING WITHIN THESE WALLS?
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NO DEVIL?
DEVIL? NO DEVIL HERE...
KERIKAY...
NO KERIKAY HERE.
BUT THE HIGH CARDINALS AND SCHOLARS OF MY KINGDOM CONSULTED ASSURED ME THIS UNCEASING WINTER RESULTED FROM THE DEVIL KIDNAPPING THE SPRING GODDESS
WHO HAD ABIDED IN THIS NORTHERNMOST ICE FORTRESS, AND PROHIBITED HER FROM WAKING THE BUDS OF NEW LIFE

POOR THING. YOU'RE A CAPTIVE, AREN'T YOU? IF YOU SPEAK FREELY I'LL REWARD YOU WITH SAFE PASSAGE TO MY LANDS
BUT YOU MUST ENUNCIATE EVERY DETAIL
THERE'S NEVER BEEN A DEVIL HERE, YOUR MAJESTY
.....
I REALLY DUNNO ANYTHING
YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS IT PLEASE YOU, YOUR MAJESTY

THE SANCTUARY IS AS EMPTY AS THE BLUE-HAIRED CHILD SAID.


A QUIET AND TREMORLESS SPACE. THOUGH AGAINST THE MIGHTY LEADEN PANES THE SNOWSTORM BATTERS, THE INTERIOR IS AT PEACE.
HAS THE DEVIL FLED?
AND THE GODDESS WHO REIGNED OVER THESE BROKEN COBBLES THOUSANDS OF YEARS DISAPPEARED?
DO THE ANCIENT WRITINGS SPEAK WITH A FORKED TONGUE?
ARE THE EARTHLY RICHES OF MY KINGDOM ALSO AN ILL GOTTEN MYTH?
AND ALSO MY FATE
BUT THE AIR HERE IS SHARP.

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?



THESE AREN'T TEARS! IT'S THE HUMOR OF THE EYE EXPELLING DUST!
I DUNNO ANY DUST HERE
HALFWIT

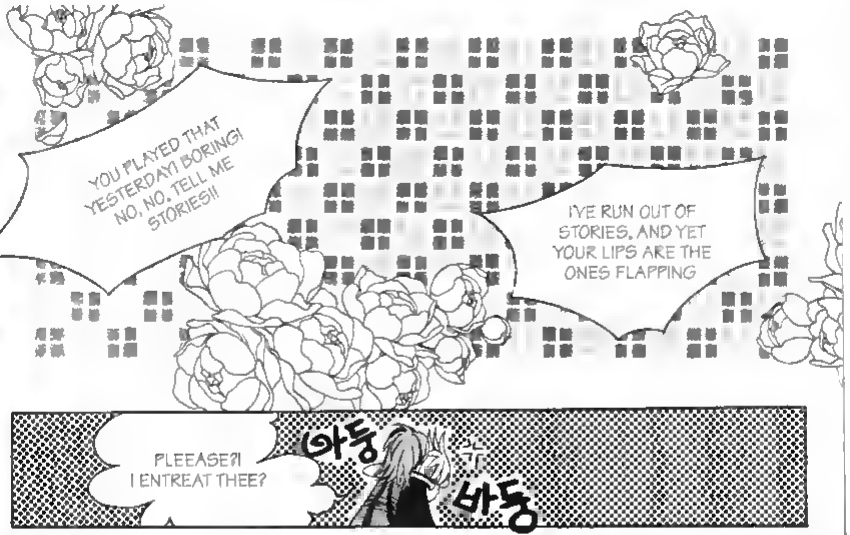
HOW LONG HAVE YOU CALLED THIS CHURCH HOME? HAVE YOU TRULY NEVER SEEN THE DEVIL?
I'VE LIVED HERE SINCE I WAS A LITTLE. I'VE NEVER SEEN A DEVIL EVER.
.....

...YOUR MAJESTY TAKES MY BREATH AWAY. IT'S LIKE I'VE STUMBLED ACROSS A POND CASTING A CLEAR REFLECTION

HOW, PRAY TELL? I, AS ALL KINGS, HAVE WHITE HAIR, AND YOURS MY FRIEND IS BLUE THE PALOR OF DEATH!
HEE HEE IT'S THE SAME
YOU DARE--!!
UM, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA LIVE HERE? UNTIL YOU FIND YOUR LONG-LOST DEVIL?
THE DEVIL IS NO RELATIVE OF MINE
HEH HEH!
WHAT A STRANGE GIRL
SHE MAY BE GROWN. BUT HER SPEECH AND LOGIC ARE SIMPLE AS A CHILD'S
AS IF TIME FROZE AROUND HER LIKE AN ORB
YET THE LABYRINTHINE PATHWAYS OF HER MIND WERE LESS DREADFUL THAN MY OWN. AND IN TIME I BEGAN CONVERSING WITH HER
HER EVER-READY ANSWER WAS "I DUNNO," THOUGH I MANAGED TO INFER HER NAME WAS LEEDO.
HER INNOCENCE AND IGNORANCE PROVED DEEP

AN INNOCENCE DELIVERED OF ALL EVIL, AS IF PROTECTED BY THE SOVEREIGN WALLS OF THE GOOD CATHEDRAL
...THE WAY A MOTHER SHELTERS HER CHILD
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
AAAH!
ISN'T THE ICE MONSTER SO PRETTY?
MM HMM
I GUESS SHE'S CAPABLE OF SIMPLE MAGIC SPELLS, TOO
I NAME YOU LEEDO JR. HIS MAJESTY IS SEVENTH IN LINE BUT YOU'RE LEEDO'S SECOND IN LINE!
TAP
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT, YOUR MAJESTY?
IT'S A ROCK THAT IS THE SHRINE OF THE ARCHBISHOP ONE MAY CONTACT HIM WITH IT AS WELL

파
샤
THAT ORB WAS PROTECTED BY A PLASTIC SHEATH, AND FREE FROM DEFECT COULD IT BE THE DEVILS POWER ?
OOH, THAT'S PRETTY! GIMME!!
NO, IT IS NEITHER PLAYTHING NOR BAUBLE
BUT I WANT TO MAKE THE CHURCH PRETTY HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY WITH TODAY?
I'M GOING TO PLAY SLAPMATCH

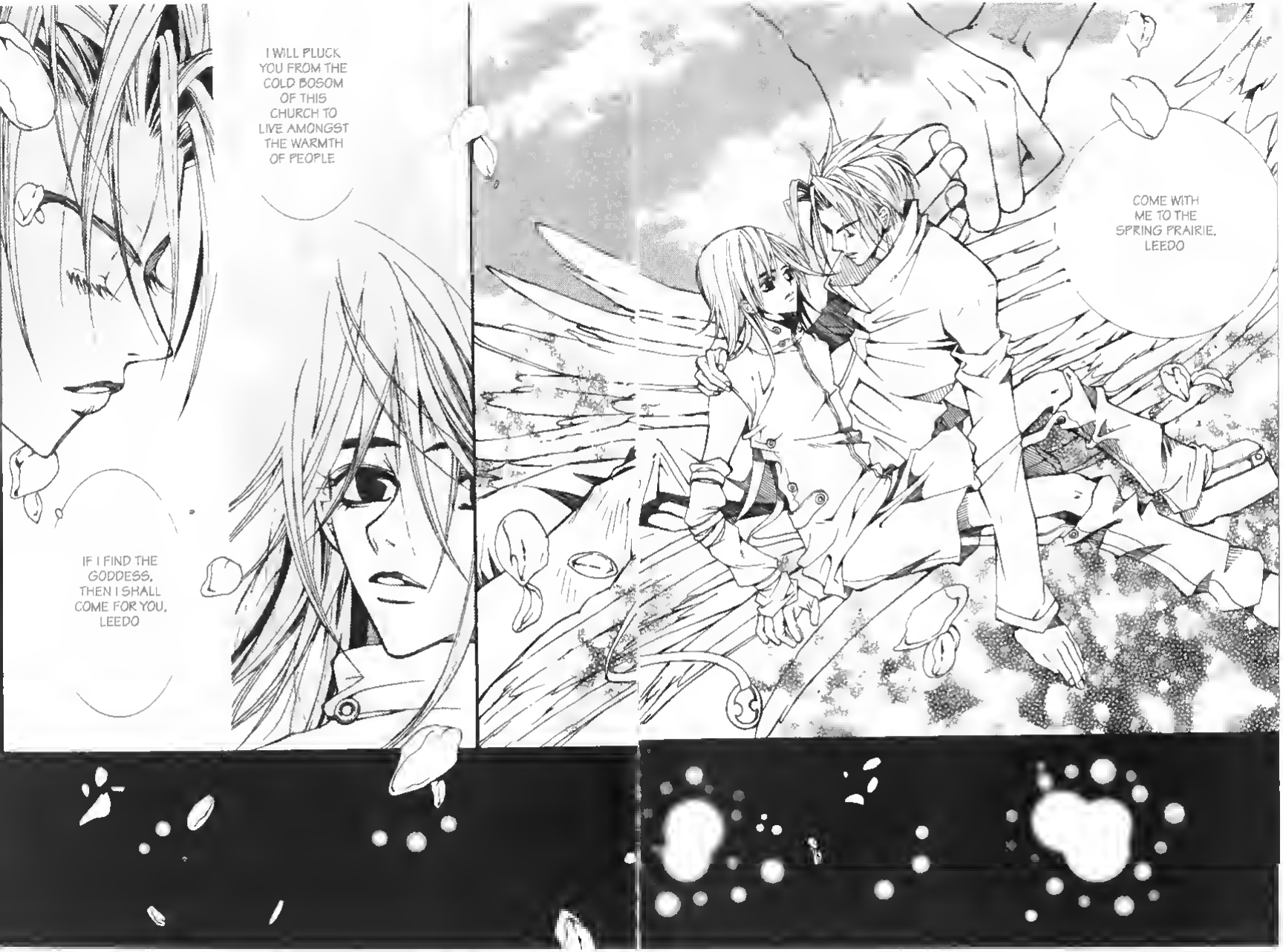

YOU PLAYED THAT YESTERDAY! BORING! NO, NO, TELL ME STORIES!!
I'VE RUN OUT OF STORIES, AND YET YOUR LIPS ARE THE ONES FLAPPING
PLEEASE?! I ENTREAT THEE?
바둥
바둥

LESS THAN A CHILD, MOSTLY A BABE
AND SO THE PRINCE, HAVING DRIVEN OUT THE BLACK ROSE WIZARD, LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER WITH THE PRINCESS
ARE ALL PRINCES BRAVE LIKE THAT?

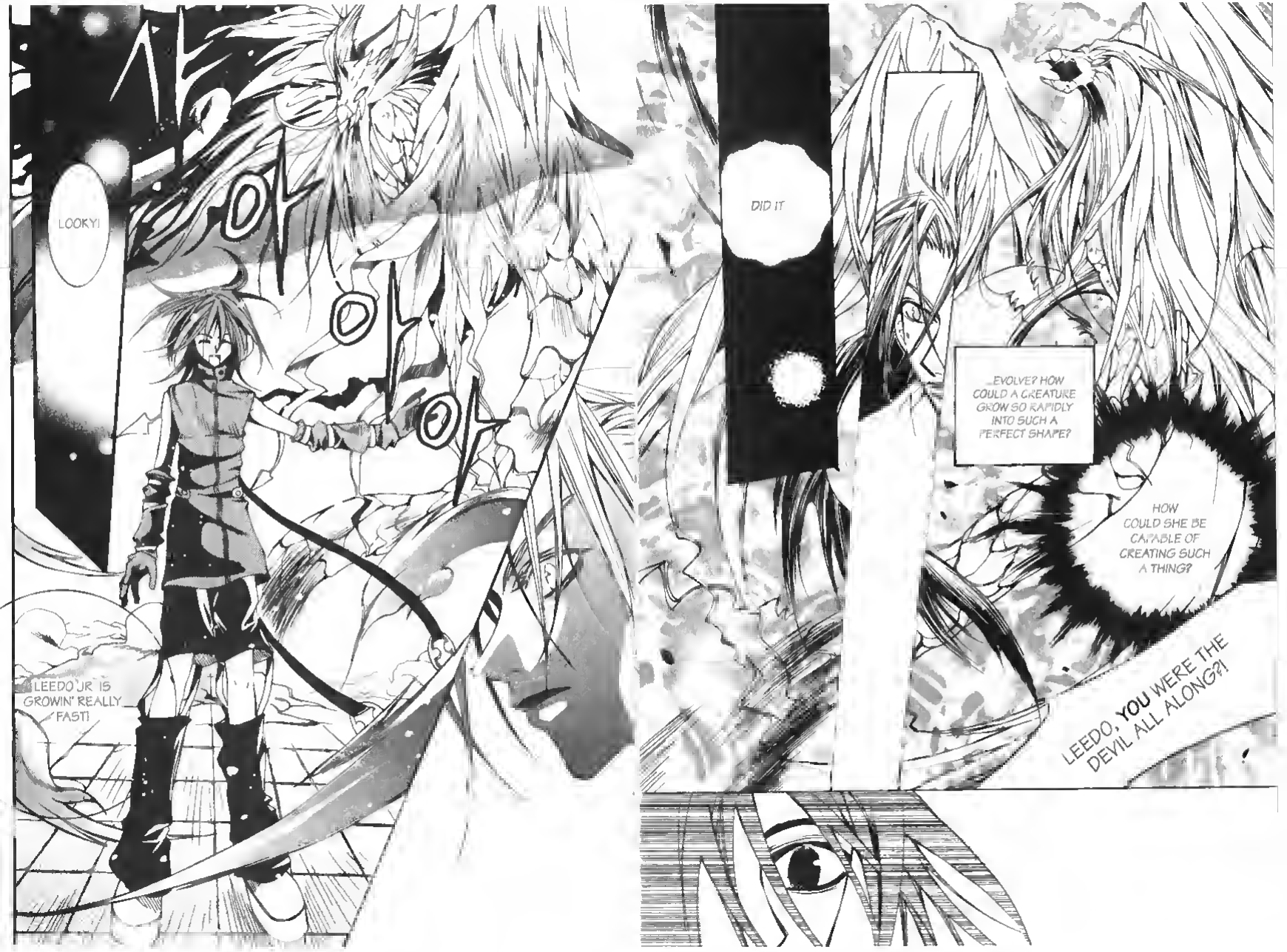
WHAT?
YOU'RE A KING, SO YOU MUST BE TWICE AS BRAVE AS A PRINCE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU BRAVE LIKE THAT?
IT IS IMPROPER TO QUESTION A KING AND NOT EVERY PRINCE IS BRAVE

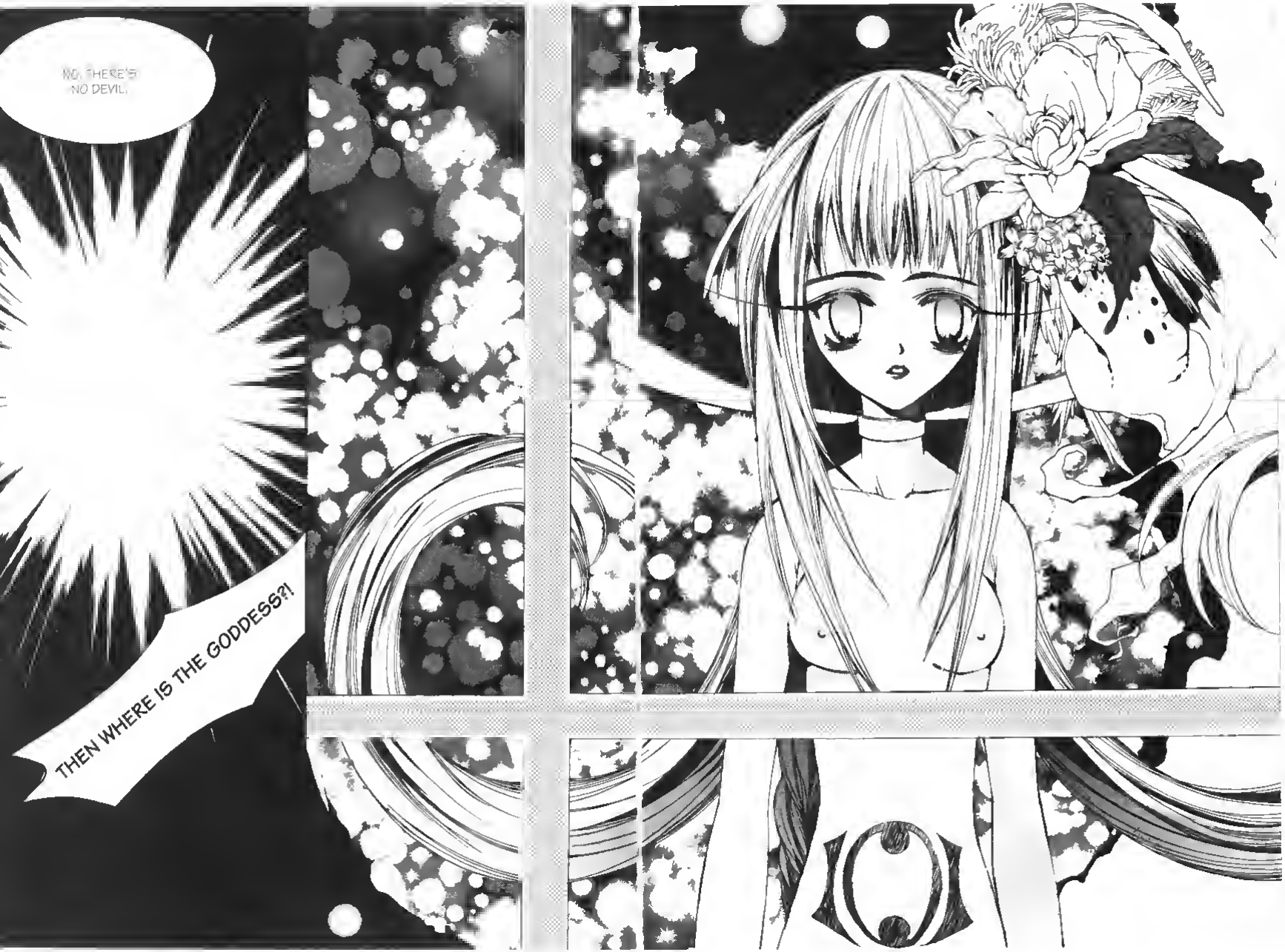
...REALLY?

AND IT'S EVEN WORSE TO QUESTION ME WITH THOSE EYES
IF I FIND THE GODDESS


I WILL PLUCK YOU FROM THE COLD BOSOM OF THIS CHURCH TO LIVE AMONGST THE WARMTH OF PEOPLE
IF I FIND THE GODDESS, THEN I SHALL COME FOR YOU, LEEDO
COME WITH ME TO THE SPRING PRAIRIE, LEEDO

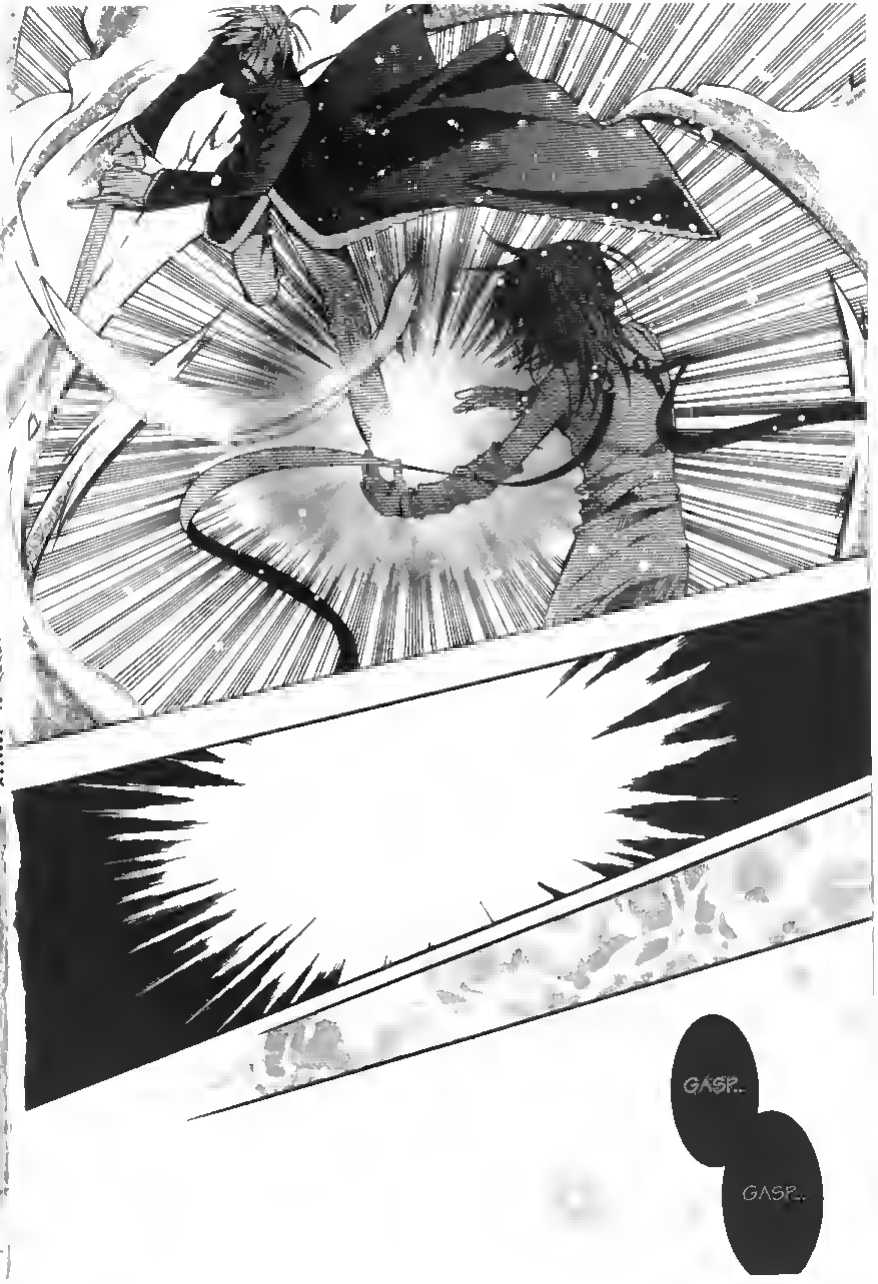
THE SNOW DIED DOWN.
AND I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE ARCHBISHOP
IS THERE SOMETHING AMISS IN THE RECORDS OF THE CHURCH? I CAN FIND NO DEVIL HERE
HOPEFULLY THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER REASON FOR THAT MAJESTY. WHAT YOU SUGGEST IS ABSURD.
OUR PARCHMENTS ARE SCRIBED BY GOD'S OWN MESSENGER.
HISTORY DOES NOT LIE.
LOOK CRITICALLY UPON WHAT IS IN FRONT OF YOU.
EVIL SPIRITS CAN TAKE ANY FORM.


LOOK!
LEEDO JR IS GROWIN' REALLY FAST!
DID IT
...EVOLVE? HOW COULD A CREATURE GROW SO RAPIDLY INTO SUCH A PERFECT SHAPE?
HOW COULD SHE BE CAPABLE OF CREATING SUCH A THING?
LEEDO, YOU WERE THE DEVIL ALL ALONG?!


NO, THERE'S NO DEVIL.
THEN WHERE IS THE GODDESS?!

YOUR MAJESTY...
YOU HAVEN'T AN INKLING DO YOU? OF WHO YOU ARE!
ANSWER ME, LEEDO! WHERE IS THE GODDESS?!
ANS--
THE... WESTERN LAKE...
YOUR MAJESTY?!
YOU'RE LEAVING?! ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE?!
YOUR MAJESTY?!
DON'T SIMPER. YOU SHALL ACCOMPANY ME
I WON'T GO!!
I CAN'T, AND YOU CAN'T LEAVE THIS CHURCH!!
KERIKAY EITHER!

WHAT'S THIS.?
NOBODY LEAVES.


GASP..
GASP..

DOES IT HURT YOUR MAJESTY?
DOES IT HURT A LOT?
DON'T YOU KNOW? YOU INFLICTED IT
HOW IN THE NAME OF THE GODS...? THEY SAID I WAS INVULNERABLE
KAFFI
I'VE TRAINED IN THE MILITARY ARTS THE ENTIRETY OF MY LIFE.
BECOME KING, I BESTED EVERY OTHER WARRIOR IN THE LAND
THAT WAS HOW... I BECAME A KING.
THE LEGEND OF THE DEVIL AND THE GODDESS WAS CONVENIENT FOR ME

SO I QUEST FOR SPRING LIKE A BIRD CHASING THE BREEZE
SO LONG AS I FLY, I HOLD THE THRONE.
DO TAKE ME TO THE GODDESS, LEEDO
HAVEN'T YOU A SOFTNESS FOR ME? WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME?

THE WESTERN LAKE LIES THAT WAY
MY INJURIES ARE HEALED ?
BY LEEDO'S POWERS?
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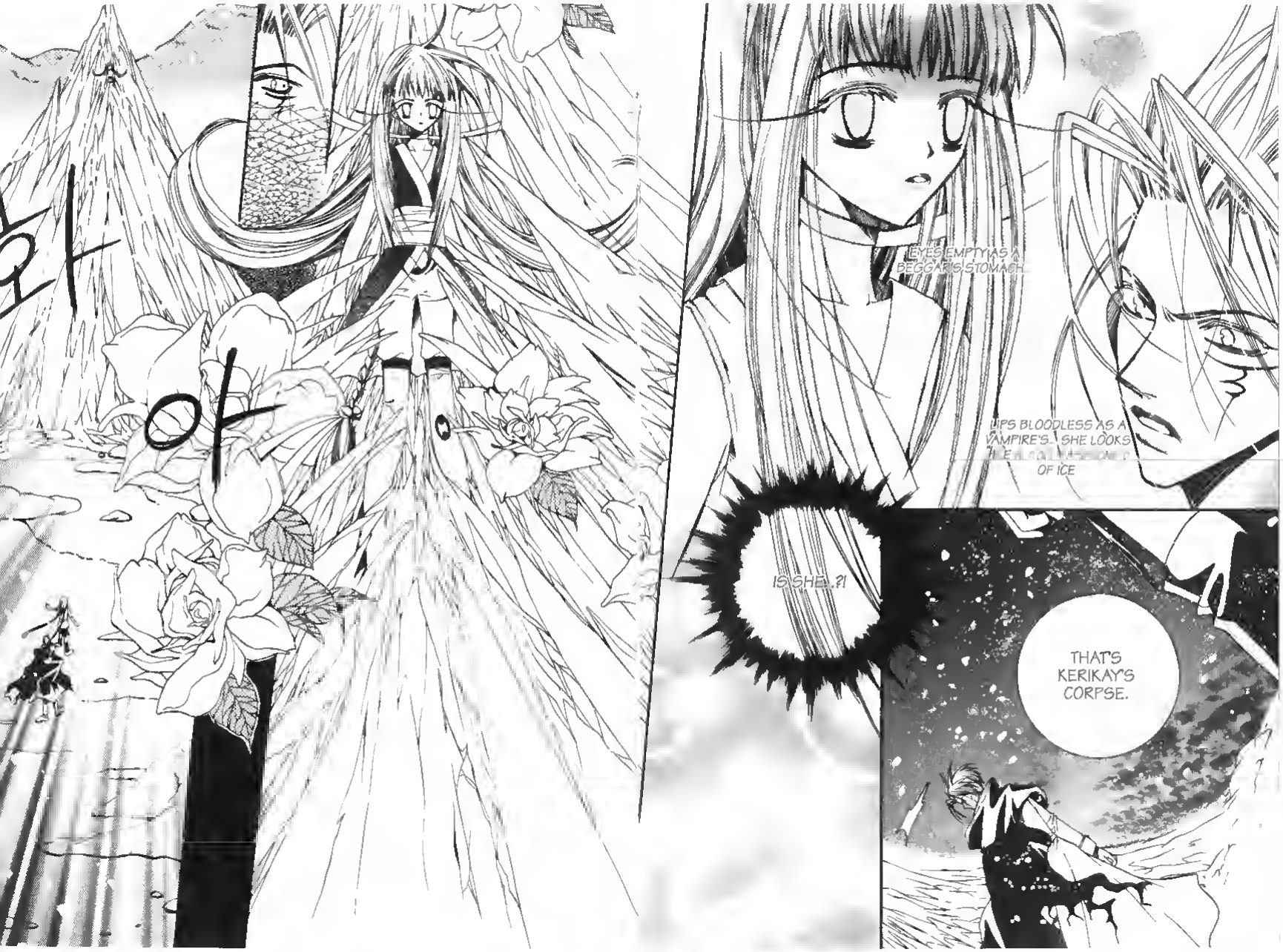
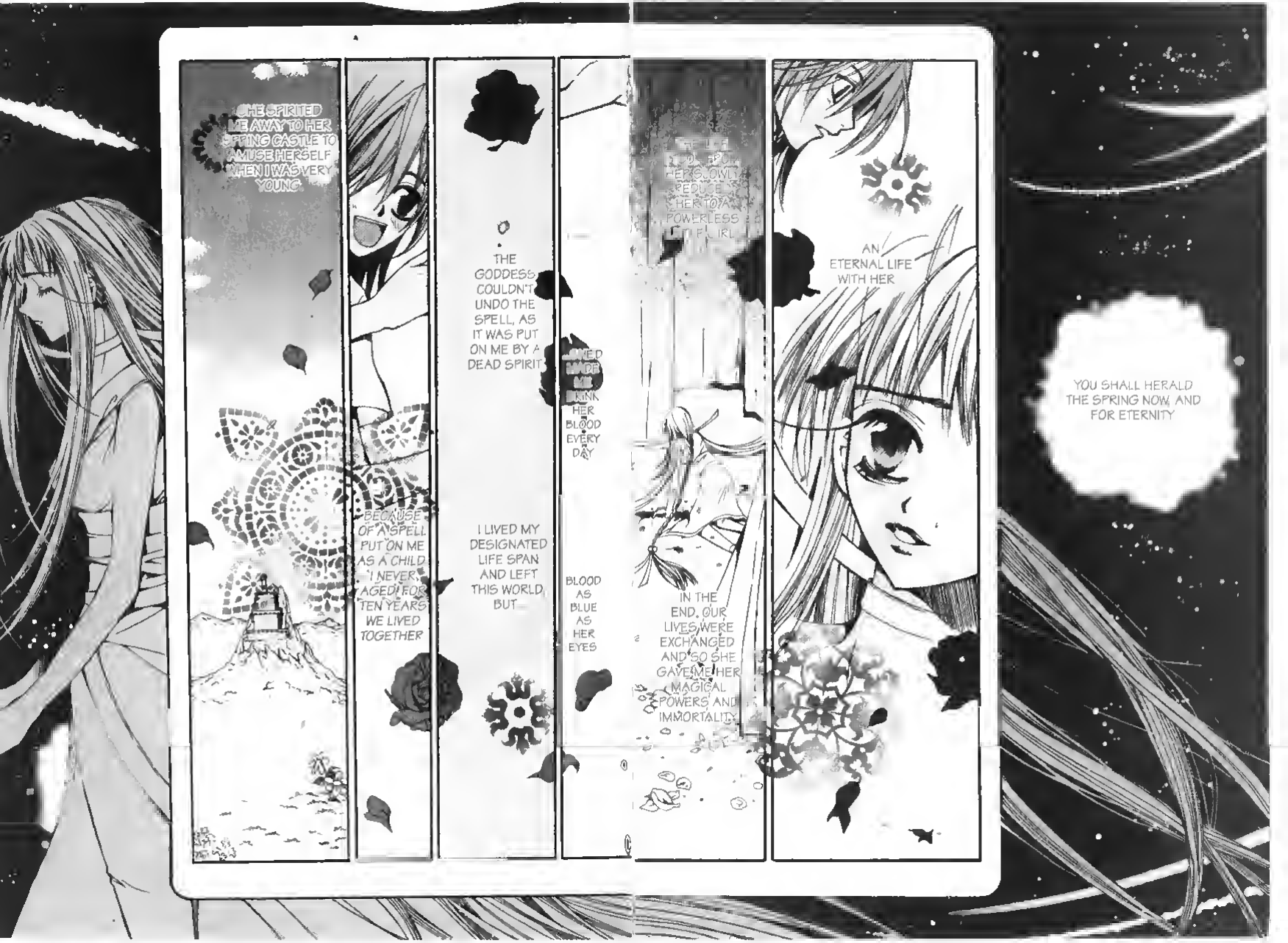

EYES EMPTY AS A BEGGAR'S STOMACH.
LIPS BLOODLESS AS A VAMPIRE'S. SHE LOOKS
OF ICE
IS SHE...?!
THAT'S KERIKAY'S CORPSE.

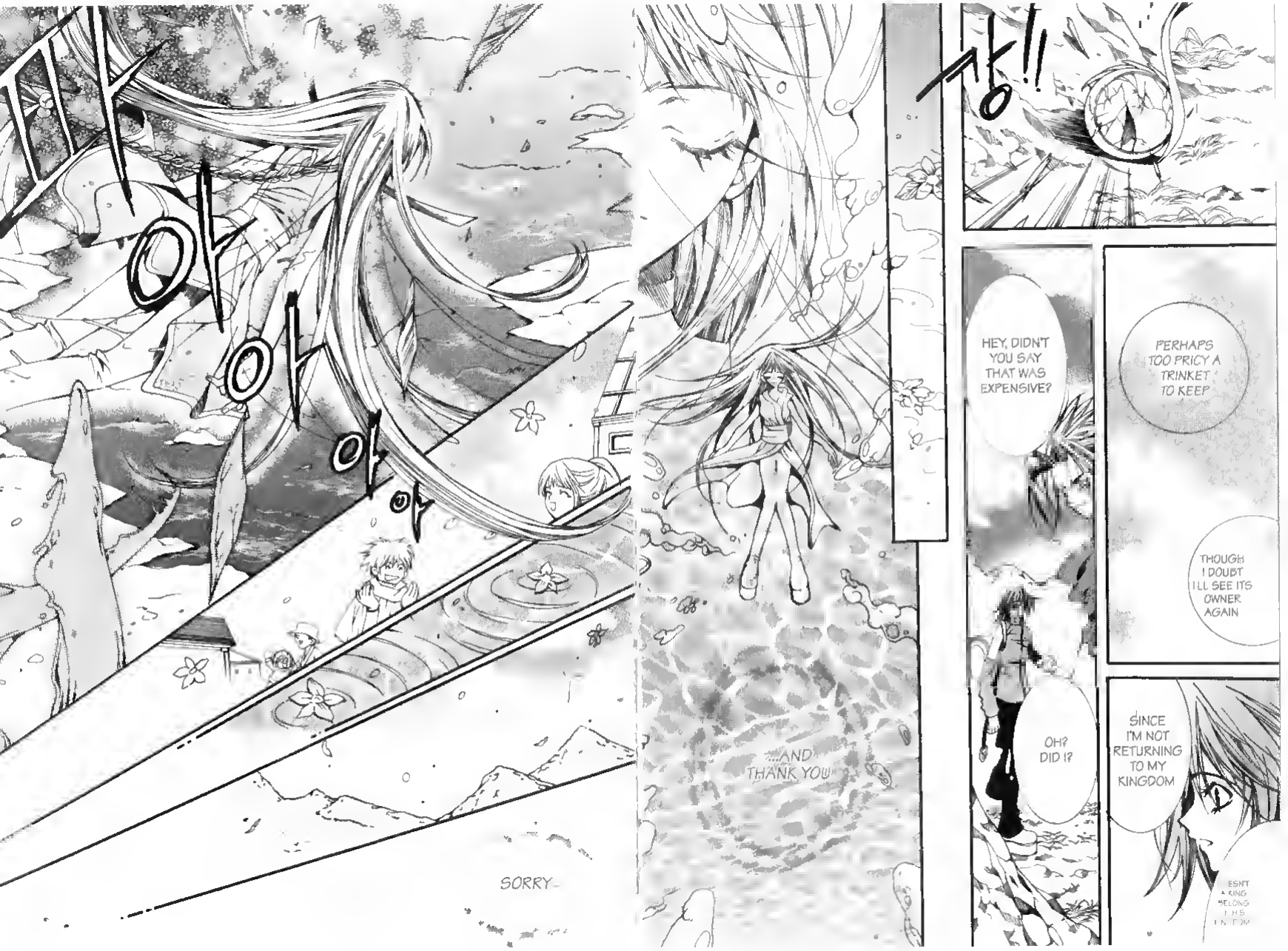

SHE SPIRITED ME AWAY TO HER SPRING CASTLE TO AMUSE HERSELF WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.
BECAUSE OF A SPELL PUT ON ME AS A CHILD I NEVER AGED! FOR TEN YEARS WE LIVED TOGETHER
THE GODDESS COULDN'T UNDO THE SPELL, AS IT WAS PUT ON ME BY A DEAD SPIRIT.
I LIVED MY DESIGNATED LIFE SPAN AND LEFT THIS WORLD BUT...
SHE MADE ME DRINK HER BLOOD EVERY DAY.
BLOOD AS BLUE AS HER EYES
THE LIE I TOLD HER TO SEDUCE HER TO A POWERLESS GIRL
IN THE END, OUR LIVES WERE EXCHANGED AND SO SHE GAVE ME HER MAGICAL POWERS AND IMMORTALITY.
AN ETERNAL LIFE WITH HER
YOU SHALL HERALD THE SPRING NOW, AND FOR ETERNITY

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE LAY SO STILL FOR DAYS I STAYED NEXT TO HER DEAD BODY, UNTIL SHE BEGAN TO ROT EVEN THEN IN MY HEART I THOUGHT

SHE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!!
SHE'LL COME BACK SOME DAY!
AND THEN, WITH HER POWERS, I MADE IT ETERNALLY WINTER TO PRESERVE HER BODY.

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG? SHE HASN'T COME... SHE HASN'T COME BACK YET...!
HER BODY MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT I'VE DONE...
...I'VE MADE YOU UNHAPPY.
THE GODDESS SAVED LEEDO'S LIFE BY GIVING UP HERS
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
LEEDO CLOISTERED SPRING SELFISHLY IN HER DESPERATION

SHE DIDN'T DO IT OUT OF CRUELTY
THE FRUIT OF THIS LITTLE SHIVERING BODY
WE TWO BURDENED BEASTS
...CLEAVED TO EACH OTHER...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
IT'S NOT OUR FAULT...
UNDERNEATH THE SIXTH MOON AFTER YOU PASS THE FOURTH FROZEN LAKE
THE DEVIL'S BLUE CASTLE APPEARS
FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS...
...A BLUE GIRL SLEPT
...IN A BLUE DREAM THERE


OH
OH
OH
OH
SORRY...
...AND
THANK YOU
!!
HEY, DIDN'T
YOU SAY
THAT WAS
EXPENSIVE?
OH?
DID I?
PERHAPS
TOO PRICY A
TRINKET
TO KEEP
THOUGH
I DOUBT
I'LL SEE ITS
OWNER
AGAIN
SINCE
I'M NOT
RETURNING
TO MY
KINGDOM

I DO NOT ANSWER TO THAT TITLE ANYMORE
THEN I CAN'T CALL YOU "YOUR MAJESTY"?
NO CALL ME LACHAY
YEAH I LIKE THAT
AND THAT IS HOW SPRING RETURNED TO MY KINGDOM

SHORT STORY END

PRICELESS: THE END♥

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